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HOME TOPICS.

It will be some time before we all get into the way of settling down to pacific subjects. We shall find ourselves involuntarily thinking of the Lancaster gun and the trenches, or murmuring about a blockade; yet we may as well make up our minds to the change. The war is over, once for all. The troops are to come home—Turkey to be left delightfully independent—militia to be disbanded—and ships to be paid off. We shall have all our old gentlemen at the head of affairs again in their full health and vigour; and though we shall have to fight Russia again before A.D. 1900, in all probability; yet there are, no doubt, long years of peace to look forward to, and we may consider how to employ them. There is the Education question, the Criminal question, Military Reform, Transfer of Land—for we are assuming that there will be no Yankee war, which (in spite of a few fools on this side the Atlantic, and a few rogues on 'other) we firmly believe.

These topics are the most permanently important. But it is not always the important question that is the interesting one. A Ministerial crisis will always take the shine out of a proposal for a vast social good—just as you rush to look at a fox-chase, though you do not care to watch the corn growing. We are of Lord Stanley's opinion, that it is to social rather than political questions that attention needs to be directed. Take the present position. Will Palmerston hold his ground? Who knows? The war is over, and we have leisure for a parliamentary cock-fight. Graham and Napier have had several, to the edification of the world. Lord John cannot be expected to be quiet long, for, if he is not making a public fuss, what is he to do? In no other age could he have possibly been Premier: he is right to make the most of the present one. But, somehow, we can get up no interest in the point whether Lord John or anybody else is likely to overthrow "Pam." It concerns, no doubt, "the trade,"—from the marquis who wants the ambassadorship, down to the Irish pauper adventurer, who spouts by profession,

and changes, as a clown tumbles, for hire. But, really, the great world of England rolls on quite independently of the matter. It does not affect the price of bread or our British liberty; nay, it did not much affect the war, for, if one gentleman forgot to feed the army, another, of different politics, tried to involve us in a shameful peace, half-way, and a third lost us Kars. Briefly, then, we shall await a political excitement, before we disturb ourselves *pro or con* the Ministry, and turn our attention to more quiet internal questions, only affecting our prosperity.

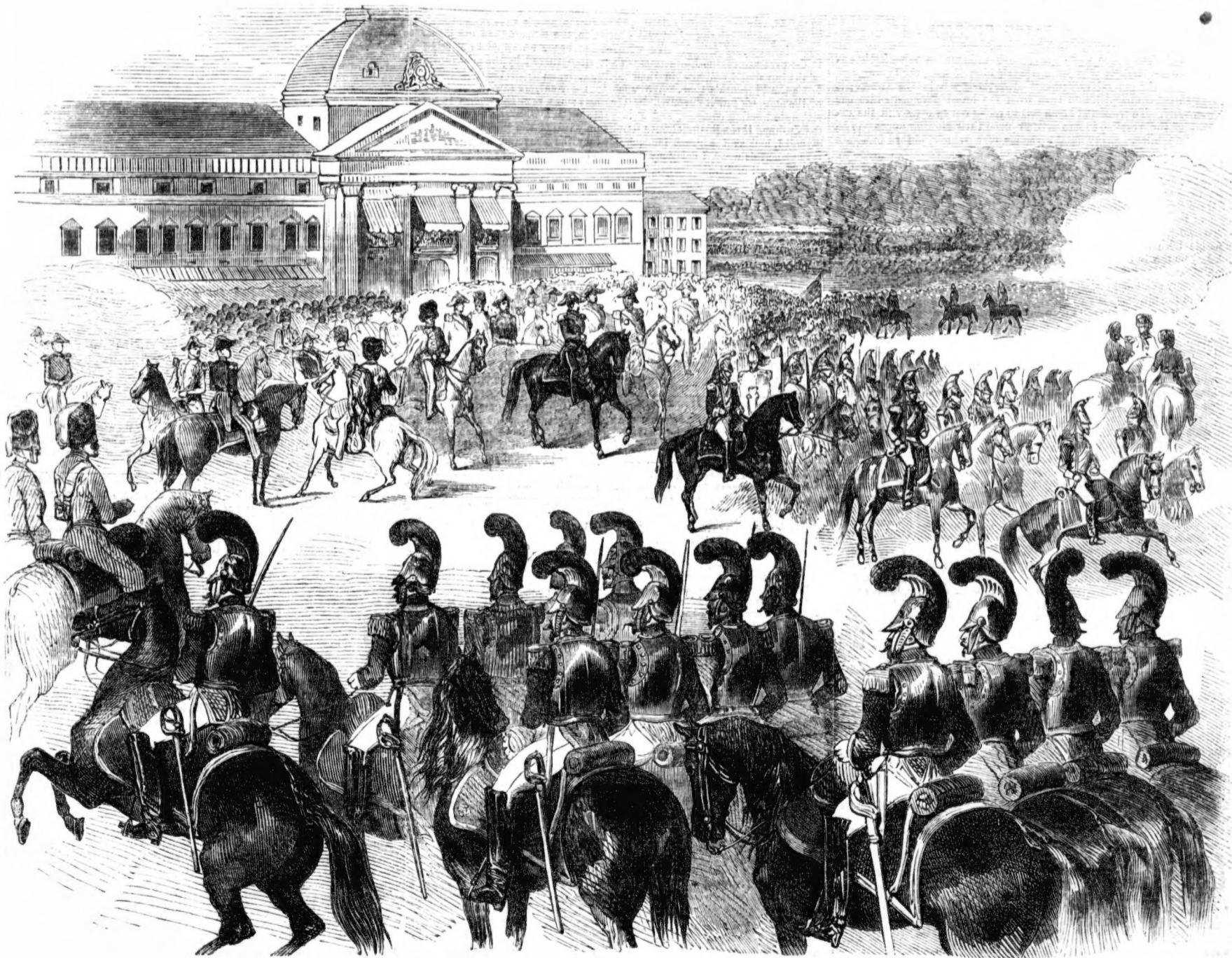
Lord John, our readers know, has turned *his* attention to a great scheme of education. When a man is turned out of place, he usually falls back on being useful—having nothing else to do—and this is one advantage of our party system; for, were one set of men "in" for ever, they would perhaps sink altogether into routine. In the desert they grow active and speculative. They sometimes read a good book, or travel, or otherwise enlarge their parliamentary ideas. Lord John has been thinking since he was kicked out. A year ago, or so, he startled us all by recommending Christian sentiments; he is now anxious to pass an education measure, and a good deal of opposition has been already raised.

It seems that Lord John is for compulsory education—*making* the horse drink. Hitherto, what education we have had has been voluntary. Everybody was agreed that our education was bad, till Lord John proposed to make it better. Then up rose his assailants, and said we were progressing—slowly, indeed, but still progressing. The progress is slow. Tea, they say, is a slow poison, and, in the same way, our education is a slow nutrient. Many things have been against it; the old ignorance of the old generation—employment of children in labour—sectarianism, which prefers rather that youth should be ignorant than that they should grow up with wrong notions about episcopal government or baptism. Lord John, considering the difficulty, resolves on taking the matter in hand, as you would, and do, take the getting up an army or a police. The army

case may furnish us with a good illustration. An army is an educated body of its kind, and a very excellent one; it receives every year thousands of clowns, including what, with our English contempt for poverty, we vulgarly call "ragamuffins." It applies to these instanter a system of "compulsory education." In a wonderfully rapid manner they are transfigured into men who have learned obedience, order, readiness, and the power of moving in masses—at once huge and flexible, like the elephant's trunk. There can be no doubt that this is a good effect of compulsory education. Lord John would disclaim, no doubt, all tyrannical ideas, but the strongest (we are inclined to think it will prove the fatal) objection to his plan is that it interferes with "Liberty." Mr. Baines doubts if *any* good can be purchased at such a price.

Liberty is to a nation what chastity is to a woman—a priceless possession, no doubt; but as a woman is not supposed to have injured her character by holy matrimony, we do not see why a nation should not sacrifice its liberty on proper occasions likewise. We all have to do it in many matters; on Sundays, for instance, about our shops, and rights of visiting places; on occasions when the police occupy the thoroughfares at a show, and prevent crowds and accidents. We give up much of our liberty in this way. Now, quoth our Lord John, why not in the matter of educating your children? What liberty do you really sacrifice? It is a bargain between you and the State—not an oppression of you by the State. Send your youngsters to our schools, and we will give them some education our inspectors are to see that that education is being given.

We do not pledge ourselves yet to Lord John's measure, but we think it is incumbent on those who oppose it to show us their alternative. They do not themselves respect the present state of things as satisfactory: what, then, do they suggest instead of the plan of Lord John? They must know that a compulsory plan of Government teaching is only made plausible by the fact, that, without some such measures, the country seems likely to remain in ignorance.



GRAND REVIEW IN THE CHAMP DE MARS, PARIS, IN CELEBRATION OF THE PEACE.

No doubt, the Government is more and more substituting new powers for old ones. County courts are superseding the civil business of the circuits—rural police are filling the place of parish constables—Downing Street has an eye on the railways. Much is perishing. But why? County courts give redress, which the old system did not do; the rural police save your geese and turkeys. Those who dislike the change, should keep up the old forms in a state of efficiency. There is no pleasure for its own sake—quite the contrary—in destroying what is old; but there is an era when it becomes inevitable. Shenstone's "Schoolmistress" is a much more picturesque object than a Government schoolmaster—but how can you get on now-a-days with the old woman?

A good "practical" objection to the plan of Lord John Russell is, that, by taking away the children from labour, you deprive their employers of their work and parents of their wages. This we do not profess ourselves able to answer, but its force may be a good deal broken by adjusting the times; and, meanwhile, we should like to ask what proportion of the youth of this kingdom are required to be kept in ignorance for the purposes of money-making? Is that a necessity which nothing can alter?

The Criminal question owes its renewed vivacity to the experience of people in the matter of ticket-of-leave-men. One phase of that experiment we have seen lately brought before us by the philosophic observation and honourable zeal of Mr Henry Mayhew. We first send convicts abroad on society to earn their bread, and then step in (through our police) and interfere with the operation. This is mad blundering, one-half of the proceeding being palpably contradictory to the other. The truth is, that, as we cannot transport our criminals, and will not hang them, we are rather in a difficulty. Say that reformatory schools do something in preventing crime, criminals there will, of course, always be. The criminal character is perhaps sufficiently studied by this time; and as for experimental and philosophic prisons (interesting but expensive), we incline to think that it is time to have done with them. We are rather for coming back to the elementary notion more—viz., that a criminal, as a criminal, has forfeited his rights of citizenship, and should be used by the State less with regard to his claims than its own. Can no ingenious person devise a plan of making convicts work—and the work pay itself, or help? This has never yet had any but a partial trial. It is astonishing the good there is in work under discipline; not sham work, like the tread-mill, but real, natural, human work. The convicts drafted off to sea last war, and dealt with, not in the mockish but the Spartan manner, fought and worked like their neighbours. The process was terribly rough, but much more human than the routine of a model prison.

The reason why questions like these excite little vivid interest, is that they apparently have little to do with what is going on before us. But their importance is not the less on that account, since that which is above ground is (in the long run) connected with what is under ground, in politics as everywhere else. The state of our working classes, our poor, and our criminals, will ultimately determine all that brilliant external life of Parliament, the Clubs, Society, and the Throne; and, what is more, grows more and more a matter of consequence to these every revolving year.

THE PEACE FETES OF PARIS. (From our Special Correspondent.)

THE day before Peace was signed, Paris presented a remarkable appearance to the stranger who could separate himself from the throng, and calmly watch the general excitement. Everybody was in the streets; it seemed almost contemptible to turn from the broad pavements into our snug *entre-sol*. To remain at home was to refuse our sympathy in the enjoyment of the people—to turn a back upon their glowing hopes—to be cynics at a jubilee. Every distant rumble of a vehicle, hushed hundreds of people, who mistook it for the cannon of the Invalides. Every orderly who galloped along the Boulevards, was a messenger of Peace. Yet day closed in; people lingered first over their *absinthe*, then over their dinner, then over their coffee and its inseparable brandy, and, lastly, on the steps of their lodgings—always hoping to hear the guns. But the artillerymen of the Invalides had gone to bed; there was no Peace yet.

To watch the faces of people, as on the following morning—the memorable 30th of March, 1856—they turned out into the streets, and blocked up the Boulevards; to elbow one's way through the *petite bourse*, soon became a painful task. For these thousands of human beings were but so many dexterous conjurors, who were one and all balancing so many castles in the air, upon their chins. Everybody had some wondrous piece of good fortune in store—to which Peace would at once give him access. How many of these men had copies of statutes for societies in their pockets? How many, possessors of drooping affairs, believed that these affairs would at once revive in the pleasant shade of the coming olive branches? How many mothers and *fiancées* were straining their attention for the welcome sound that would promise them the speedy return of sons and husbands? And then when the time came—when the hundreds of signatures had been appended to the Treaty with the eagle's quill, plucked from the Imperial bird in the Jardin des Plantes; and when the seals of the contracting powers had been stamped around the paper upon which the quill was laid to repose from its important labours, under the gentle eyes of the Empress Eugénie—what a thrill ran through Paris, as the old artillerist of the Invalides placed the match to the first cannon! People went wildly about congratulating one another; shopkeepers rubbed their hands in anticipation of the arrival of Russian princes; and the *Quartier Breda* sent forth songs of delight. The police, sly and active, went vigorously about, bidding all good citizens illuminate—and the speculators thronging the *petite bourse* were in a fever. The funds fell!

Considering the efforts which the French Government had made to ensure a rise, this fall was regarded with great concern by all people, especially when it became generally known that the funds of foreign countries had risen. The same circumstances let me note by the way, happened on the birth of the Imperial prince. On this occasion, the English and other funds rose, while the French funds fell. Still the people kept holiday, talked gaily, launched forth into the dreamland of speculation, and went to bed to dream that they were millionaires. But few retired to these happy dreams before they had strolled through the principal streets of the capital to see the official illuminations. They would, of course, be worth seeing, for the inhabitants had been ordered to express their delight in the shape of Chinese lanterns. The public buildings were one blaze of light, and along the chief thoroughfares endless rows of many-coloured lamps swung over our heads. Still here and there were broad gaps of darkness, in which resided people ill affected to the Imperial régime. Upon these morose observers of the times, the police had endeavoured to make an impression in vain. Well, we should hardly care ourselves to be commanded in this way. Naturally cheerful, we should nevertheless be disinclined to smile as we are wont to smile—to order. Thus, although all classes in France were delighted with the peace—although the 30th of last month was a holiday in every French home, hundreds and thousands declined to exhibit even a rushlight. The Emperor, it is to be feared, was not at all pleased with his good people of Paris—in the first place, for dropping the funds; and in the second place, for economising their candles.

Still the review, it might be fairly hoped, would produce a great demonstration of public feeling; and the Government was not disappointed. We have been at reviews in the Champ de Mars on some memorable occasions; but never before have we seen the vast crowds there who met on the first of this month, within sight of the Ecole Militaire, to receive the Emperor, accompanied by the most brilliant staff ever gathered in Paris. The cheers were prolonged and hearty, as the distinguished group arrived upon the ground, and the anxiety to see them was so great, that the police endeav-

oured, but almost in vain, to prevent people from climbing the trees; while all the chifonniers and old hags of the neighbourhood pressed forward to offer elegantly dressed ladies the craziest of chairs to stand upon. Of the review it is wholly unnecessary to give the reader a description. The Emperor, accompanied by his guests, the most prominent of whom was Count Orloff, rode slowly along the lines, past 60,000 men. Canrobert rode close to the Count, and gave him all necessary explanations. The Count, being a cavalry officer, was mostly interested in this branch of the French service; and was especially struck with the brilliant appearance of the two regiments of Carabiners. Marshal Canrobert also pointed out to the Count the two regiments of the line that took the Malakoff. It appears that the Count was thoroughly surprised to find such a reserve of troops in Paris, and to see the wonderfully efficient state of the line. Having passed along the ranks, the Emperor and staff took up their position, and the troops defiled, headed by the School of St. Cyr.

While all this was going forward, the tens of thousands of people who formed a compact hedge about the ground, were amusing themselves with characteristic practical jokes, or equally characteristic refreshments. Medals in commemoration of the peace; *gaufres* in all varieties; halfpenny cigars; penny bunches of violets; and lastly, the popular *coco*, or liquorice water, were the luxuries and delicacies offered, by men of strong lungs, to a populace of apparently an equally vigorous appetite. And then the rush back to Paris from the review—past the *Garde Meuble*, where Louis the Sixteenth's bronze statue stands waiting till Henri Cing finds it a pedestal; past the Invalides, where the old fellows of the First Empire were standing looking on the vigorous tide of human life flowing before them, leaning upon their crutches; past the ruins of the old Exhibition Machinery Gallery to the bridge, presented amusing episodes to the stranger. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was almost in the possession of the fatigued crowd. Every available position was turned into a seat, and round about hawkers deposited their wares, and tried to push a vigorous business. At the bridge, a stately commissary of police, with his cocked hat, his gilt sword, and his blue sash, kept order among the people and carriages who poured into the vast Place de la Concorde, and there awaited the return of the Emperor.

There had been no notice issued by the police to the inhabitants of Paris that they must illuminate on this occasion; but it was evident that the people were determined to complete their holiday. They would take the peace demonstration into their own hands. Accordingly, in the afternoon, so great was the demand for coloured lamps, that long queues were formed before the doors of the tradesmen who sold them. Crowds gathered about the shop of Daziaro, the Russian printseller of the Boulevards, to watch the arrangement of a portrait of the Russian Emperor over the windows, surmounted by the Russian arms. The Café de Paris was literally hidden behind paper-lanterns. The Gymnase displayed an immense canvas, upon which a whole leader of patriotic sentiments was displayed. The black eagle floated everywhere. Bierry, the shawl manufacturer of the Boulevard des Capucines, was equally demonstrative. And when night closed in day began again in Paris, for the capital was really and truly one blaze of light from one extremity to the other. The Boulevards looked like a gigantic cavern, sparkling to the top with precious stones, and filled with a roaring, laughing, rollicking multitude of devils, throwing the lights and crackers in all directions. Even along the fifth storeys dangled these coloured lamps, like jewels. The illumination was not official, because all the public buildings were dark; but it was general, spontaneous, on the part of the inhabitants. The illuminations on the occasion of the Queen's visit were mere glimmers of light, compared with the Boulevards on the 2nd of April, 1856, when the people of Paris volunteered an expression of their satisfaction at the Peace. At midnight crackers were still disturbing the public peace, and exhausted lanterns were falling to the earth amid the screams of the people round about.

On the following day many people were up betimes, and on their way to the St. Germain railway station, to be present at the hunt in the forest, at which, according to the general conviction, the Emperor and the Plenipotentiaries would attend. We were of the eager crowd, and our belief in the presence of the Emperor was soon strengthened by the appearance of the imperial huntsmen in their costume, taken from the fashions of Louis the Fifteenth's time. We went to the hunt, we saw the butchery of the stag, we saw it devoured by the dogs; we saw Edgar Ney in his elaborate hunting costume, and Prince Murat, in a wide-awake, driving a four-in-hand through the forest; but as only two of the Plenipotentiaries attended, and as the great hunt, headed by the Emperor, is expected to take place this week, I delay my description of the sport, as carried on in the old forest of St. Germain.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A NEW description of bread, of second quality, to be called *pain réglementaire*, is shortly to appear in Paris by the express desire of the Emperor, and a circular has been sent to the bakers on the subject. The bread will be purely wheaten, but it will be made of all the recognised qualities of flour, and, moreover, there will be in it a larger proportion of bran. The rule laid down is, that for every 100 parts of wheat, 75 parts of pure flour must be used in the fabrication. Commandant Favé, the orderly officer of the Emperor, who announced the birth of the Imperial Prince at the Hotel de Ville, is charged to superintend the purchases of flour for the experiment.

A Council of French Ministers, held under the presidency of the Emperor, is said to have decided that the general elections for the Legislative Corps shall not take place before 1857.

A considerable reduction of the French army, as soon as the treaty of peace is ratified, is contemplated. France has still 610,000 effective men. This number will be brought down to 400,000.

Marshal Vaillant, it is now rumoured, is to be French Ambassador to St. Petersburg. Marshal Canrobert was, and Marshal Bosquet is, spoken of for the portfolio of war in the event of a vacancy.

The Queen of Spain has bestowed the Order of the Golden Fleece on the Imperial Prince of France.

SPAIN.

ACCOUNTS from Madrid to the 2nd instant state that General Echagüe was about to leave for the Basque provinces, and it was hoped that he would be able to allay the excitement created by the law relative to the sale of the ecclesiastical and national property. The Government had suppressed the "Commercial Bulletin" of Bilbao, this being the first time it has exercised the power vested in it by the Cortes of suppressing mischievous publications. The precise day of the departure of the Duke de Victoria for Valladolid had not been fixed, as it depended on the deliberations of the Cortes. After inaugurating the railway at Valladolid, the Duke is to go to Burgos, and from Burgos he means to go Logrono and Saragossa before returning to Madrid.

The presence of Count Cavour in Paris is said to have resulted in a proposition for a treaty between Sardinia and Spain, relative to the position of the consular agents of the two nations, and to some commercial questions which require elucidation. This treaty will be submitted to the Cortes.

AUSTRIA.

THE intelligence of the conclusion of peace was received with marked satisfaction at Vienna.

The State balance-sheet for the year 1855 has appeared, showing an absolute deficit in the revenue of 138,899,279.

A further reduction in the army, to the extent of 30,000 men, is announced. The Austrian Army in the Principalities will quit these provinces. The withdrawal of the troops has already commenced.

A meeting of the Austrian bishops took place at Vienna on Sunday. More than sixty prelates were present.

An important alteration has just been promulgated in the Austrian tariff. It effects in several cases a reduction of between 30 and 40 per cent., and is regarded as an experimental step towards a more general abandonment of the prohibitive system.

PRUSSIA.

THE King is said to have invited the Prince of Prussia to take up his fixed residence at Berlin; and it is anticipated that the marriage of the Prince's eldest son with the Princess Royal of England will place the legal brothers on terms of much greater cordiality.

RUSSIA.

THE Czar and the Grand Dukes Constantine, Nicholas, and Michael, arrived at Friedrichsham on the 22nd ult. After having inspected the troops, the cadets, and the batteries, they left for Helsingfors, inspected the troops and the fortifications, and visited the hospitals and the churches. On the 25th, the Czar reviewed the troops in garrison at Sveaborg, and in the evening was present at a *sorée* given by General Berg, Governor-General of Finland. He then left for Åbo, and on the 29th returned to St. Petersburg.

At St. Petersburg the proclamation of peace has been accompanied by a grand review.

By a ukase just issued, it appears that the two fleets hitherto maintained by Russia in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof are not to be reinstated.

The Minister of Finance notified on the 5th inst. that a treaty of peace having been signed, the merchant vessels of the Western Powers will be admitted to Russian ports. The Russian Government will now permit the exportation of corn from all its ports.

There has been a talk in St. Petersburg of a third state loan for a sum of 500,000,000 of roubles.

DENMARK.

THE High Danish Chamber at Copenhagen, after a long discussion, and in spite of a strong opposition on the part of the Ministers, have decided that every member has a right to demand explanations from the Government.

TURKEY.

OMAR PACHA has been appointed, by a decree of the Sultan, General-in-Chief of the army of Asia, and he will leave very soon for his post.

By intelligence from Constantinople, to the 27th ult., it seems that, in several towns of Asia, manifestations had been made hostile to the religion recently decreed. At Aidin, especially, the Christians had been maltreated, and the cavalry had repressed a disturbance by the Turkish population at Ismid.

The prisoners exchanged against the Russians taken at Kinburn had arrived at Constantinople, and given some very interesting details about Odessa.

Sir E. Lyons, it was publicly stated, would probably replace Lord Stratford de Redcliffe as British Ambassador.

It has been officially confirmed by telegraph that the Sultan has authorised the establishment of the Ottoman Bank.

AMERICA.

JUDGING from the recent speech of Mr. Hawthorne (who must be supposed to be fully aware of the import of the words he employs) at the Mansion House, referred to in another column, we need not anticipate a war with America. Notwithstanding, according to the latest advices from New York, various speculations are afloat in regard to a treaty which is alleged to exist between Great Britain and Nicaragua. It is said that this treaty, although never made public till the present time, will afford to Great Britain an opportunity, which it is supposed in certain quarters she has long desired, for interposing her authority in Central American affairs. Whatever issue may attend the question, it is represented as being now in a state that will allow either the British Ministry or the American Cabinet to make considerable "fuss," if that be their wish.

A letter from New York, dated March 25, says:—

"There has been a lull in the Kansas excitement lately in consequence of the delay of Mr. Speaker Banks in the appointment of the Kansas investigating Committee. That Committee was, however, appointed last night, and it consists of Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, one of Mr. Banks's rivals; Mr. Howard, of Michigan, a friend of Mr. Campbell; and Mr. Oliver, of Missouri, who is perhaps the most dogged, ferocious, and atrocious enologist of the border ruffians who have run across the line and shot down the free men of Kansas when they were standing at the ballot box. There is no doubt about the result; for this Investigating Committee are to proceed to Kansas and take testimony. Two of them are Free State men, and if their report is an honest, candid, straightforward production, there is a clear majority in the House of Representatives to adopt it. At the same time Mr. Oliver will be able to present the slavery question in the fairest light it can possibly bear. But it is a foregone conclusion—slavery can never exist in Kansas. The spirit of the free North is aroused. All through the Free States public assemblies are meeting day by day and night by night. Ministers of the gospel of all denominations (except the Catholic) are preaching a crusade against this new and outrageous insult of the slave power. 'Sharpe's rifles and Bibles' are being subscribed and voted for by the thousand. Ex-governors, judges, mayors, and eminent citizens—clergymen, scholars, teachers, lawyers, physicians, farmers, mechanics—all the producing and illuminating classes of society, are enlisting in these cohorts of freemen; and now, while the chain with which this more Arctic winter has bound us is being dissolved by the vernal sun, they are stirring from every portion of the free States, and before midsummer has come, thousands of these men will appear upon the fertile plains of Kansas. In fact, this whole movement, which has deeply stirred the nation, will hereafter be known in the annals of liberty for all men as the second crusade of America. The first was for the freedom of the Anglo-Saxon—the second will be known as the crusade for the freedom of the African."

THE ALLIES IN THE CRIMEA.

THE "RUSKIES" AND FRENCH SHOOTING WILDFOWL.

SEBASTOPOL, March 22.—Some of these gray-coated gentry—the "Ruskiies," are wonderful shots, and may be seen carrying away strings of wildfowl over their shoulders towards Mackenzie's farm. The French, on our side, are as assiduous, but by no means so successful in pursuit of game, which, indeed, is scarce towards the western bank; and now and then, to the indignation of our more scrupulous and better disciplined sportsmen, they cross over the river (the Tchernaya) and wage with the Russians a common war against *anadidae*, *seolopidae* and *gallatores*. When I say "better disciplined," I mean only to imply that the severities of our chiefs, who threaten any officer who may be found out of bounds with the penalties of a court-martial, deter them most effectually from taking the liberties in which our Allies so gracefully indulge. "Have you killed anything?" said I to a gallant young Guardsman, knee-deep in slush. "No; these confounded—frightened them all to the other side, where they are so thick they can't be missed, and then they go over and shoot them like sparrows, while we poor devils are kept here, and will be broke by old C——y if we follow them." However, wild-ducks have been killed and eaten by us, and the pintail and the teal, the golden-eyed pochard, the widgion—his tufted brother—the little grebe, and some other varieties, have undergone the trying operations of the British *cuisinier*. As we ride along, lo! a fusilade springs up in the marsh, and grandly through the sky, in dazzling relief against its azure, sail two milk-white swans, with out-stretched necks and black bills, cleaving their way against a strong east wind, and jerking a wing now and then in acknowledgment of some high-flying bullet that has just gently tickled the feathers of their snowy mail. Then up rises a train of herons or a noisy comitatu of brent geese, or a flight of mallard and duck, with whistling wings, or heavy bitterns, or agile snipe and cloudy streaks of plover, and distract the attention and the aim of the excited pot-hunters. For several long miles this active chase goes on under the solemn brow of Inkermann, past the deep gorges of these blood-stained ravines, by the deserted City of Caves, the dwelling-places of mystic and forgotten races, till the Tchernaya, expanding as it flows, gains on the yielding earth, and eats its way with many mouths through the fat *marais* into the blue waters of the roadstead of Sebastopol.—*Crimean Letter.*

DESTRUCTION OF SEBASTOPOL CONTINUED.

The demolition of trenches, works, and houses in the city of Sebastopol continues daily and incessantly, so that the south side will soon be as desolate and ruined as Thebes or Palmyra. Every hour, long trains of men pass by with beams of timber and planks on their shoulders, which are taken out of the remains of the White Buildings. Had fire been rained down from heaven on the devoted city, its annihilation could not have been more complete. The stranger who halts to survey it from the neighbouring heights, deceived by the whitewashed and plastered walls of the houses, might think that Sebastopol was still a city; but when he walks through its grass-grown, deserted streets, formed by endless rows of walls

alone, of roofless shells of houses, in which not one morsel of timber can be seen, from threshold to eaves; when he beholds great yawning craters, half-filled with mounds of cut stone, heaped together in irregular masses; when he gazes on tumuli of disintegrated masonry—once formidable forts, now so shaken, as it were, into dust and powder; when he stumbles over the fragments of imperial edifices, to peer down into the great gulfs, choked up with rubbish, which now mark the site of the grand docks of the Queen of the Tigris, and beholds the rotting masts and hulls of the sunken navy which was nurtured there; when he observes that what the wrath of the enemy has spared is fast crumbling away beneath the fire of its friends, and that the churches where they worshipped, the theatres, the public monuments, are specially selected for the practice of the Russian gunners, as though they were emulous of running a race in destruction with the Allied armies—he will no doubt come to the conclusion that the history of the world affords no such authentic instance of the annihilation of a great city.

THE "POLICE" OF THE BLACK SEA.—The number of armed vessels which Russia and Turkey are to have in the Black Sea, for the purpose of police and defence of the coasts (says a contemporary), is not to exceed ten for each Power. Turkey, of course, may have as large a fleet as she chooses in the Sea of Marmora and the waters of Constantinople, and may exercise it in the Mediterranean. It is obvious that ten vessels for each state is the minimum number of ships required in a sea of the magnitude of the Euxine, to prevent its coast becoming the refuge of pirates, and to secure the safety of the commerce of all nations in its waters. The presence of the Consuls of England and other Powers in the ports of Russia will be the best guarantee that this slight armament will not be exceeded.

REDSCHID PACHA AND AALI PACHA.—Aali Pacha was long protected by Redschid Pacha; but when the latter found that his protégé enjoyed the confidence of the Sultan, and was likely to remain in office, he became jealous, and taking advantage of his absence at the Paris Conference, addressed to the Sultan a Memorandum, in which he roundly declared that the Hatti-Humayoun the Grand Vizier "had made too many and too important enemies to the Western Powers, and had betrayed his country." This precious document, which was signed by Redschid Pacha, was presented to the Sultan by Izet Bey, the monarch's first chamberlain. After having perused his ex-minister's memorandum, the Sultan sent it to his Ministers, and by their advice dismissed his first, second, and fourth Chamberlains. Nejd Bey, the third Chamberlain, now occupies Izet's place.

THE POPE AND THE AUSTRIAN CHURCH.—The advisers of the Pope are preparing a surprise for the monastic orders in Austria, which will hardly be to their taste. Some years ago, the Papal Government was in unusually great financial difficulties, and it was proposed to apply to the different Catholic monarchs for pecuniary assistance. But the Roman Minister of Finance recollects that the royal sons of the church are seldom in possession of superfluous cash, and the idea was relinquished. Rome has now a better plan "for raising the wind." She is about to order the heads of all the Austrian convents (some of which are extremely wealthy) to send in an exact account of their annual revenue and expenditure, and they will at the same time be given to understand that a part of the surplus ought in future to be employed "in assisting Mother Church."

THE MISSING STEAMER PACIFIC.—The Tartar and the Desperate, Government screw steamers, which were despatched by the Lords of the Admiralty in search of the missing Pacific, put into Galway Bay on Monday evening at six o'clock, having spent nine days in the search. They have not been able to discover any trace of the ill-fated steamer.

MURDER IN THE COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—On Wednesday evening, Mrs. Sarah Kelly, hitherto distinguished in the Dublin Law Courts as the successful suitor in the case of "Kelly v. Thewes," was murdered, while walking in her grounds with her nephew. Two men, with blackened faces, approached, and, desiring the nephew to stand aside, they discharged pistols, and shot the unfortunate lady through the head. Her death was instantaneous.

OBITUARY.

RODNEY, HON. MORTIMER.—On the 30th ult., at Zoangques, France, aged 61, died the Hon. Mortimer Rodney, seventh son of George, second Lord Rodney. He was born in 1791, and married, in 1815, Sarah, daughter of Robert Whitley, Esq., by whom he had three daughters and three sons, one of whom is a Lieutenant in the navy.

ROTHMAN, R. W., Esq.—On the 28th ult., at St. John's Wood, died Richard Wellesley Rothman, Esq., Registrar of the University of London. The deceased gentleman was a Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He was never married. The post which he held in the University was one of £500 a-year; and we understand that Professor Airy, Professor Heaviside, and Dr. Latham have declared themselves candidates for the appointment.

STOVIN, LADY.—On the 3rd inst., at Brighton, died Anne Elizabeth, wife of Lieut-General Sir Frederick Stovin, K.C.B. and K.C.M.G. She was a daughter of the late Sir Sitwell Sitwell, Bart., and was born in 1793. She married, in 1815, her gallant husband, who served through the Peninsular War, and who is Colonel of the 3rd Foot, and a Groom-in-Waiting to her Majesty.

DAWSON, RIGHT HON. G. R.—In Upper Grosvenor Street, aged 61, died the Right Hon. George Robert Dawson, of Movilla Park, Castle-Dawson, Londonderry. He was born in Dublin, in 1790; and, after receiving his education at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, where he took a First Class in Classics, entered Parliament as M.P. for his native county of Londonderry in 1815. He subsequently was Under-Secretary for the Home Department under Lord Liverpool and Canning, and Secretary of the Treasury and the Admiralty. He sat for Harwich from 1830 to 1832; and held a Commissionhip, and ultimately the Deputy-Chairmanship, of the Board of Customs. He married a sister of the late Sir Robert Peel, and was remarkable as the first of the Orange party in Ireland who brought himself to vote for Catholic Emancipation.

SIMMONDS, ADMIRAL SIR W. K.C.B.—On the 30th ult., died, at sea between Malta and Marseilles, at the age of 74, Admiral Sir W. Simmonds, K.C.B. He entered the navy in 1785, under his father, then Captain Simmonds; in 1795 took part in Lord Bridport's action against the French off Ille de Croix. He subsequently served on the Spanish, French, and Irish Coasts, and on the Western Station. In 1800, while in his Majesty's ship Cambrion, Mr. Simmonds accompanied the expedition sent under Sir E. Pellew and Major-General Maitland to co-operate with the French Royalists in Quiberon Bay. He afterwards took part in the blockade of Toulon. Having seen further service under the late Sir R. Bickerton, Sir Richard Strachan, and Admiral Sir Bladen Capel, in 1806 he was engaged in the West Indies to watch the movements of the French squadron. From 1819 to 1825 he filled the post of Magistrate and Captain of the Port of Malta. In 1831, he built the brig Pantalo on a new principle, the scientific beauty of which was soon recognised. In the following year he accepted the Surveyor-Generalship of the Navy, and received the honour of Knighthood from the sailor King in 1836. He was the author of "Directions for Sailing on the Adriatic," a little work which obtained for him the thanks of the Admiralty. He was also rewarded with their thanks for the valuable qualities of his several ships, and for the improvements which he introduced into the navy. In 1835, he was chosen an F.R.S., and nominated a C.B. in 1848. Sir William was twice married; first, in 1808, to a daughter of M. Luscombe, Esq.; and, secondly, in 1818, to a daughter of the late Admiral Carteret.

HARVEY, LADY H. E.—On the 30th ult., at Durham Terrace, aged 71, died the Lady Honora Elizabeth Hester, eldest daughter of the late Earl of Cavan. She was aunt of the present Earl. In 1805, she married Captain John Woodgate, and being left a widow in the year following, in 1809 she married the late George Frederic Hervey, Esq., formerly captain in the 18th Hussars.

LECHMERE, SIR E.—On the 2nd inst., at Rhudd Court, Worcestershire, died Sir Edmund Hungerford Lechmere, Bart. He was the second baronet of his family, and succeeded his father in the title in 1849. In 1819, he married Maria Clara, daughter of the Hon. D. Murray, by whom he has left two daughters, the eldest of whom is married to Evelyn Philip Shirley, Esq., M.P., and also an only son, Edward Anthony Harley, born in 1826, and unmarried, who has now become third baronet. The deceased gentleman filled the office of High Sheriff of his native county so lately as 1852.

RAY, H. B., Esq.—On the 31st ult., at his residence in Hill Street, Berkeley Square, aged 54, died Henry Belwood Ray, Esq., of Pymoor, Edmonton, one of the Masters of the Court of Common Pleas, and a deputy-lieutenant for Middlesex. By his death, the public service has lost a valuable officer, and the charities of the country an active supporter. He earned a debt of gratitude from the nation for his untiring exertions as deputy-chairman of the Crimean Army Fund, to relieve the wants of our soldiers in the Crimea during the winter of 1854-5, at a time when his own health, too, was failing. Mr. Ray was also well known in the literary world as having a valuable collection of autographs, books, and miscellaneous curiosities.

BOWRING, C., Esq.—On the 4th inst., at Larkbear, near Exeter, died, aged 86, Charles Bowring, Esq. He was the father of Sir John Bowring, M.D., her Majesty's Commissioner at Hong Kong. His only daughter pre-deceased him on the 30th ult. His ancestors for many generations had been engaged in the woollen trade of Devon, and his wife was a daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Lane, of St. Ives.

GOODMAN, SIR G.—We regret to state that we were misled, last week, by the columns of a weekly contemporary, to mention among our obituary the name of Sir G. Goodman, M.P. for Leeds. It will be remembered that some years ago Lord Brougham's death was prematurely announced in the columns of the "Times," at considerable length; and we own that we are glad to find ourselves for once mistaken, and that the worthy Knight is still alive.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY AND ITS ABUSES.

THE desponding and unsatisfactory condition of our National Gallery is a subject that has occupied many thoughtful minds for some time past. That the Institution is, in no single respect, what it ought to be, must be obvious to the least reflective persons. Viewed as a Picture Gallery for the people, it is a perfect blank. Let anybody, anxious to be satisfied of the truth on this head, visit the building on a holiday. What does he see there? Crowds of respectable would-be self-improving people, wandering about with vacant faces, trying to discover something on which to fix their attention, from which to derive some of that exalting principle the contemplation of works of art is said to convey. They are struck with the quaintness of half-a-dozen pictures, with the coarseness of half-a-dozen more, and, let us admit, with the beauty of possibly another half-dozen. But the general impression is one of disappointment. "Very fine, no doubt; but I don't understand it!" That is invariably the feeling—usually the expression; and on very few of the departing faces can be read the slightest indication of a wish to return.

"But the People are not sufficiently educated in art" is the cry. "They cannot appreciate the Old Masters." Very good! Waiving the question as to whether such an institution ought not to contain, in itself, the means of educating the people, are we to accept the National Gallery as a collection of Old Masters—serviceable to the artist and interesting to the connoisseur? Let the same inquirer take counsel of any body of artists or connoisseurs—nay, of the veriest old *dillitanti* logies that ever gabbled about breadth, chiaro-scuro, mellowness, and what not—and he will be told that, judged even by its pretensions, the collection is stark naught; that the few genuine works of the great Masters in the gallery are, with rare and unimportant exceptions, inferior and damaged specimens of the painters they represent. Any astonishment on this head is usually answered by a complaint of the niggardliness of Government.

A perusal of the debate in the House of Commons on Monday will acquit the Government of that particular charge; we wish we could add, of all blame whatsoever in the matter. Instead of the public money having been grudged to the Institution, large sums have been recklessly lavished on it. One of £17,639 was voted on Monday evening in defiance of a spirited minority who struggled for a reduction of £650. This was sought, by the movers of the amendment, not because they are men who consider the public money could be better employed than in encouraging the Arts, but because they have a predilection in favour of limiting national plunder wherever it is possible.

The facts ventilated in the course of the debate prove, if any such proof were necessary, that the National Gallery, as at present constituted, is one of the most disgraceful jobs that disgrace this land and age of jobbery. The money that should be devoted to the public good is frittered away in high salaries to incompetent or superfluous officials, and their contingent "expenses." Sir Charles Eastlake, the Director of the Gallery, receives a salary of £1,000 a year, and with it unlimited control over the affairs of the Institution. In addition, there is a secretary with a salary of £800 a-year, and a travelling secretary at £300, with a *carte blanche* for travelling expenses. Sir Charles Eastlake was dismissed two years ago from an inferior post in the establishment, on his own confession of utter infamy. He was convicted of causing some of the best pictures to be incurably damaged. He was duped by the most glaring impostures. And now we find him recalled to office at five times his original salary, just in time to spend £2,000 of the public money on a picture that was not long ago in the market for £50! The secretary (at £800 a-year) is an important functionary, whose principal duties appear to be the compilation of a catalogue, which Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of the Treasury, informs us "will comprise, when completed, a most interesting history of art." Surely one year's salary would be no bad price for the copyright of this valuable work! The travelling secretary is a German picture dealer, chiefly known for having induced the Trustees to purchase a counterfeit Correggio. His recommendation: are intimate acquaintances with all the Picture Galleries (including those of the dealers) in Europe, with, of course, unlimited power of obliging his friends in the matter of nomination.

The person most immediately to blame is, of course, Sir Charles Eastlake. During the few years of that gentleman's authority as Keeper, Professional Trustee, and, finally, Director of the National Gallery, a specific sum of twelve thousand odd pounds has been expended in the purchase of pictures. Other large sums have been laid out for a similar purpose under the same direction; but these, we are willing to assume, not unprofitably. The twelve thousand odd pounds here expressly alluded to (in reality it is nearer thirteen) have been positively wasted. We unhesitatingly state, that, out of the fourteen purchases to which this money has been devoted, comprising twenty-eight subjects (eleven already bought having been rejected as too bad for exhibition), there is not one that is really valuable to the artist for study, or to the public for mere interest—the more remote purpose of "art elevation" being, of course, out of the question. We say nothing about "authenticity," considering that a matter exclusively concerning the antiquarians. A picture for a public collection should be bought because it is a good picture, and by a man who knows whether it is good or not. Who painted it, is of vastly inferior importance.

Not only does Sir Charles Eastlake not know whether a picture be good or not—he never professed to hold office on these claims. "He was engaged," (these are his own words), "on the understanding that he was chiefly to be consulted on the works of the Italian masters;" and all his purchases have been made avowedly on the score of authenticity—not merit. And as a mere judge of authenticity, how has he acquitted himself? Simply, he is responsible for all the ridiculous forgeries that have made the nation, through its gallery, contemptible. The preposterous "Medical Gentleman," by Holbein, that has made us the laughing-stock of Europe, was purchased by him in 1845 for £630. So was the chalky and unmeaning "Susannah and the Elders"—which most people believe was not, and everybody admits ought not to have been, *Guido's*—for £1,200. So was the still more execrable and more certainly vaunted-up "Tribute Money," with which the name of Titian is insulted in the catalogue, for £2,613! a sum for which half-a-dozen pictures by Hunt, Millais, Rosa Bonheur, Ary Scheffer, Landseer, or any other good modern painter, might have been secured to the nation. And, lastly, so was the notorious "Adoration of the Magi," ascribed to Paul Veronese, the subject of so much discussion in the House of Commons on Monday, and recently added to the collection at a cost of nearly £2,000. To speak of that picture as a Paul Veronese is a libel, at once on the artist's name and on the reason of his admirers. Paul Veronese was one of the noblest draughtsmen and purest colourists that ever expressed a great mind through the medium of line and colour. This picture is as flat as a wall (a very dirty one), and the drawing of the "Virgin and Child" would disgrace the veriest shop-artist in Wardour Street. Would Paul Veronese have painted that solid strip of sarsnet ribbon that is supposed to represent a sunbeam; or those pudding-headed, blue-winged monstrosities, that swarm down it like overgrown insects? We are aware that certain artists (whose authority we respect) discover "qualities" in the thing, that suggest the possibility of the great master's handiwork; such as the advancing figure of the Ethiopian King, certainly not without power, and the silvery satin dress of the page stooping in the foreground. But "qualities" of Shakespeare may be found in "Sir John Oldcastle" and the "Yorkshire Tragedy," which are nevertheless stupid productions, written by very common people. To those qualifying gentlemen of the Meagle's school, whose ultimate refuge is in the theory that "perhaps the Veronese only touched it," we reply with Daniel Doyce, that, "perhaps he didn't touch it," and most rational people will adopt the latter hypothesis.

The question arises, then, if Sir Charles Eastlake is, or rather is not, all we have indicated, why is he in so responsible a position? Monday night's debate is our answer. After the condemning and unanswerable array of facts brought against the Director by Mr. Otway, backed by the opinions of almost the entire London press—after the admission of Mr. Vernon, Sir Charles's personal friend, that on that gentleman's own evidence "it was impossible to say that he was such a person as he (Mr. Vernon) would wish to be the Director of the National Gallery"—after Lord Elcho's (another friend of Sir Charles's) reluctant endorsement of the same conviction—after all this, Mr. Thomas Baring gets up for the Trustees of the National Gallery, and expresses their opinion "that Sir C. Eastlake's management has been most satisfactory—that he was a man of knowledge, taste, and discretion, on whom reliance might be placed—and

that the purchases had been made with great judgment." Finally, Lord Palmerston "trumps" the whole discussion in his own flippant manner, by stating that "he felt sure that no person who enjoyed Sir Charles Eastlake's private friendship, and knew his merits, would have their judgment in the slightest degree altered by the calumnies that had been cast upon him; and he was equally sure that Sir C. Eastlake had too much good sense to allow the serenity of his mind to be disturbed by them." And the grant is carried, and all existing abuses ratified, by a majority of eighty!

That "private friendship" is the key to it all—proving that our public affairs are managed in Art as in all other matters. The common interest is sacrificed to the feelings of individuals, families, and "cliques." Sir Charles Eastlake is a highly respectable man, and not a very good painter. He is "in with" the Royal Academy—is even appointed their president, as a harmless man with good connections, and not calculated to interfere with stubborn reputations. As the cardinals generally choose the "softest" member of their body for Pope, so the Academicians elected Sir Charles Eastlake as their president. But the Pope duly crowned and out of harm's way, the supremacy must be honoured and invested with all sanctity, for the sake of the Order. Sir Charles's washy rose-pink reproductions of Raphael and Titian are very tame certainly, and calculated to bring discredit on the institution of which he is the elected sovereign. A reputation must be got up for him on another foundation. In Scribe's admirable "Camaraderie" (on a licensed adaptation of which amusing comedy we have been governed in every department for some years past), an influential member of the fraternity is discovered without a reputation. As there are no possible grounds for introducing him to the public, either as a great author, artist, statesman, or savant, the allied band decide on speaking of him, on all occasions, as "our great Economist." Just so things have been "made pleasant" to Sir Charles Eastlake, by trumpeting him to the world as a profound judge of pictures—"one who may be consulted on the works of the Italian masters." And as there is public money to spend, and pleasant journeys to be made, and acquaintances to oblige, Sir Charles Eastlake is entrusted with unlimited sway over the Art interest of the country, and good-naturedly winked at as the right man in the right place, "in virtue of his office!"

The most simple remedy for the evil would seem to be Sir Charles Eastlake's dismissal. But we question whether in the present state of things such a measure would be of any real service. "The system," here, as in many other cases, is really to blame. The roots of that system, however, extend beyond the foundations of Trafalgar Square. "The system" is to place every post of emolument and responsibility at the disposal of some incompetent respectability whom it is necessary to provide for. The dismissal of Sir Charles Eastlake would only lead to the appointment of some other incompetent respectability. We know of no man really fit for the important trust, who would undertake it in the face of the heart-breaking opposition of interests, cliques, and systems, to which the honest exercise of its duties would infallibly subject him.

DESTRUCTION OF AN EMIGRATE SHIP BY AN ICEBERG.—FRIGHTFUL LOSS OF LIFE.—By the steamers which arrived at Liverpool on Monday last, we have New York papers, containing accounts of a fearful catastrophe which had occurred to the ship John Rutledge from running into an iceberg while on her passage from Liverpool to New York. This vessel left Liverpool for New York on the 16th of January with 119 passengers. On the 18th of February, in latitude 45° 34', longitude 46° 56' west, she fell in with the ice; on the 19th, she entered a field of ice, but cleared it. Soon afterwards, however, on the same day, she encountered an iceberg, which stove a hole in her bow and damaged her to such an extent that at six o'clock she was a complete wreck, and evidently sinking. Nothing remained but for those on board to abandon the wreck as best they could. Five boats were lowered, four of which took loads and left. In the fifth boat, which was the one found by the Germania, the mate of the John Rutledge, Mr. Atkinson, and several others, were just entering, when it broke adrift with the thirteen already in it, leaving the mate and those with him to go down with the wreck. Those in the boat now pulled it through the water and ice as well as they were able, but soon their compass was broken, and amid the snowing and cloudy weather which followed they knew not which way they went. Days passed on, and one by one of the thirteen in the boat sank in death, from the combined effects of cold and starvation, and were thrown overboard, until, on the 28th of February, Mr. Nye, with the four latest dead—among whom was Mrs. Atkinson, the wife of the mate—was picked up by the Germania, from Havre for New York.

THE SEIZURE OF GOLD DUST AT LIVERPOOL.—An investigation took place on Saturday at the Sheffield Court of Bankruptcy, before Mr. Commissioner West, into the claim of a Jew, named Solomon Nathan, to gold dust of the value of £1,200, seized on board the Lightning at Liverpool, by the messenger of the Court of Bankruptcy, on suspicion of its being the property of a bankrupt—Nathan Salaman, of the firm of Marks and Salaman, of Sheffield and Australia, merchants. A summons had been issued against Nathan, to which he and his friend Ritter appeared to show the grounds on which he claimed the gold dust. They were submitted to a long examination by Mr. Fretson, the solicitor to the assignees. At the close of the inquiry, it was understood that Messrs. Baines, of Liverpool, would detain the gold dust until a clear title was established to it by some one.

ANOTHER SUPPOSED CASE OF POISONING.—Some suspicious circumstances having recently transpired respecting the death of a Mrs. Ashmull, the wife of a farmer at Edwall, Burntwood, Staffordshire. The body has been exhumed, and an investigation was commenced before the coroner, Mr. W. Ward, at the Star Inn, Burntwood, on Friday. Mrs. Ashmull died in March last year. A post-mortem examination has been made, and it was expected that the intestines would be forwarded to Professor Taylor for analysis.

THE NEW CEMETERY AT BRIDPORT.

In the county of Dorset, and on the River Bride, where it is crossed by seven bridges, about a mile and a half from the English Channel, stands the town of Bridport, to which our illustration relates.

Bridport is far from being destitute of interesting historical associations. It is mentioned in "Domesday Book" as containing 120 houses, and a mint for the coinage of silver. In after-days, it boasted of a priory dedicated to St. John the Baptist. In the age of Henry III., it was granted a Royal charter; in the days of Edward VI., it began to send members to Parliament; and it gives a title to the Hoods, who held property in the neighbourhood during the civil wars, and in the reign of George III. performed naval exploits which made them "known to fame."

Bridport, in our own day, consists of three spacious, airy, and well-paved streets, and contains many handsome houses, a cruciform Gothic church, a town hall, and other public buildings; and a harbour, which admits vessels of two hundred tons burthen. The novelty, at present, is the new cemetery, which was consecrated on the 2nd inst., by the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, in whose diocese the county is included.

The inadequacy of the old parish churchyard to receive the remains of its inhabitants had long been felt, and for many years past vague schemes of enlarging it by enclosing a portion of the glebe land adjoining had been in contemplation. Up to the year 1854, however, nothing had been done to supply this acknowledged deficiency. Ultimately a Burial Board was formed, under the recent Acts of 1853-4, and the result has been the selection of a site in every way calculated to meet the exigency of the case, and to accommodate the growing wants of the population in this respect, with a due regard to the health of the town and surrounding neighbourhood.

The spot chosen for the new cemetery is situated on rising ground, about half a mile east of the town, and immediately adjoining the turnpike-road leading to Dorchester, consequently of easy access. It is four acres in extent, and its position such that any effluvia emanating thence would be carried from the town by the prevailing winds. The soil, moreover, is admirably adapted for the purpose of interment, being of that light sandy nature which is generally considered most suitable to facilitate decomposition.

The buildings shown in the engraving are from the designs of Mr. Hall, of Thornhill Square, Islington, and the selection made by the Board appears to have been most judicious. It will be seen that they are in the style of Gothic architecture prevalent in the 13th century, and generally known as Early English or Lancet Arched Gothic.

On the left appears the Episcopal Chapel, consisting of a nave and small semi-octangular apse or chancel; in the latter is a carved oak table. The nave has seat accommodation for about forty, ample space being left in the centre for depositing the bier; the entrance is at the west end.



THE NEW CEMETERY AT BRIDPORT, DORSETSHIRE.

The windows of the chancel, as well as a handsome rose over the entrance, are stained and painted. The windows of the nave are arranged in pairs, and are all filled with Cathedral glass, having rich ruby and purple borders. It has an open stained roof, the seats and door being finished in the same manner.

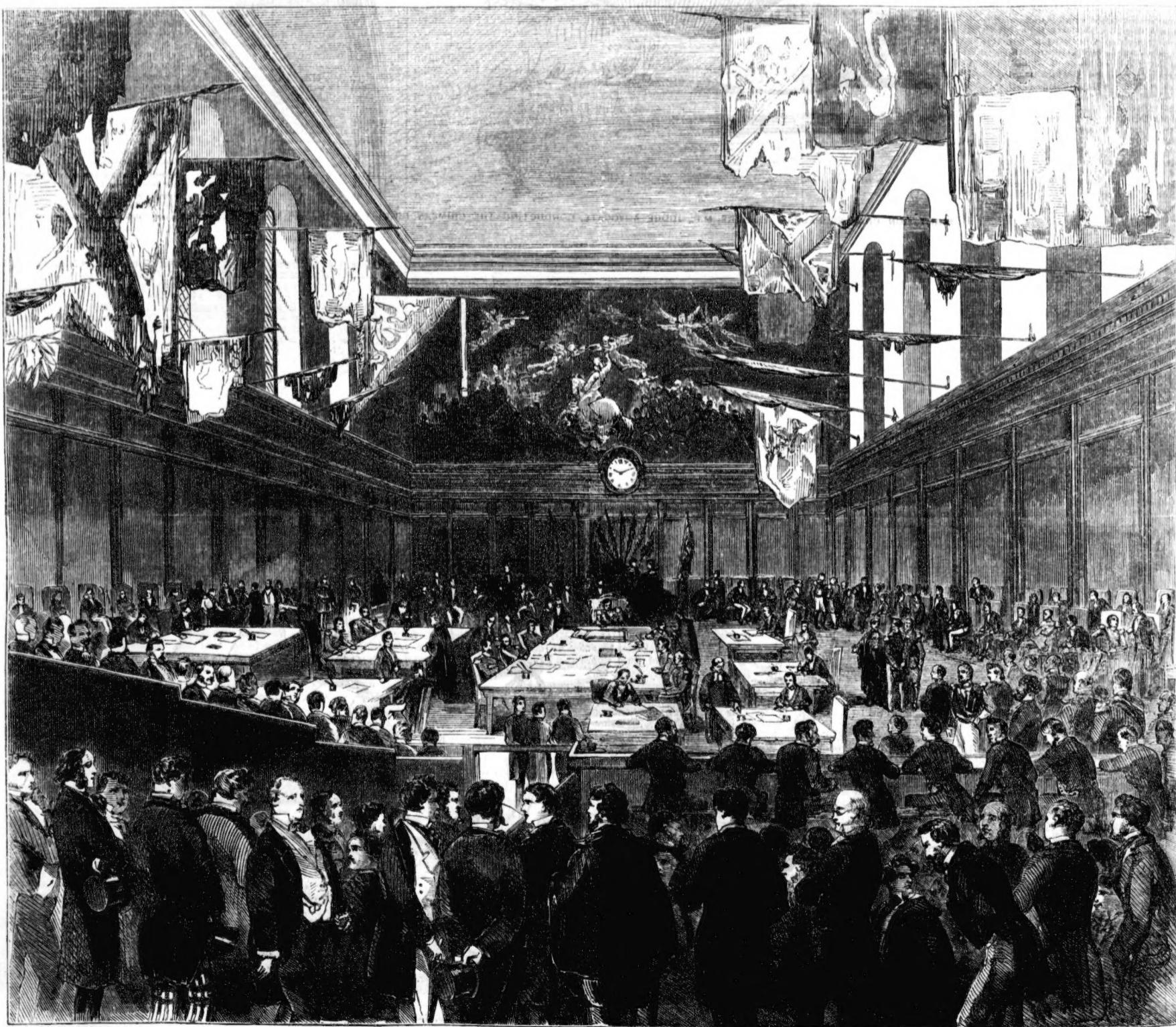
The Dissenters' chapel occupies the centre of the sketch, and corresponds in size and shape with that already described, excepting the chancel, which is here omitted. This latter circumstance admits of the introduction of a lofty triple-lancet window at the west end, the centre light being ten feet in height. This, as well as the side windows, is also filled with

stained glass. This chapel has the entrance at the east end, the window over the doorway being composed of four trefoils. The side windows are single. In most other details it corresponds with the Episcopal chapel. Each of the chapels has a bell-turret surmounting the entrance.

On the right hand is seen the lodge, situated immediately on the west of the entrance gates. The lower room (the window of which is shown in the sketch) is fitted up as a waiting or vestment room, the rest of the building being taken up with the necessary accommodation for the lodge-keeper. We cannot help remarking that much good taste has been displayed in the arrangement of detail in this erection; the variety of pat-

tern and finish in the windows, chimneys, and other parts of the building, wholly relieving it from that sameness which is too frequently observable in buildings of this class.

The cemetery is surrounded by a low stone wall and a bank, on which is planted a row of holly and other prickly shrubs, the north side presenting a slope towards the approach, being, moreover, tastefully laid out with evergreens. A broad gravel walk divides the ground into two equal portions, the eastern half being consecrated, the western appropriated to the use of Nonconformists. The arrangements throughout the cemetery are such as appear to have given general satisfaction to all religious sects.

THE CRIMEAN INQUIRY, IN THE DINING HALL OF CHELSEA HOSPITAL.
(SEE PAGE 246.)

THE LOSS OF THE SCHOMBERG.

The loss of the royal mail ship *Schomberg* within about thirty miles of Port Philip Heads, on her outward passage to Australia, has caused the utmost excitement in the colony, and the peculiar and aggravating circumstances connected with the disaster have been noticed by the passengers in an "indignation" meeting, held at Melbourne. Some days after the loss was known, Captain Forbes addressed a letter to the "Argus," of which the following are the most important paragraphs:—

"The royal mail ship *Schomberg* sailed from Liverpool on the 6th of Oct., and in the early part of the voyage met with light baffling winds, the equator not being crossed until the 28th day after sailing, and a detention of ten days from calms marking the crossing of the line.

"From the equator to the meridian of Greenwich, the ship met with light, baffling, and contrary winds, which protracted the voyage to fifty-five days from our departure from Liverpool, the distance ordinarily occupying not more than thirty-eight days. From this date until our arrival at 130 degs. east longitude, we encountered fine steady breezes from south-west to north-west, the ship averaging six degrees daily of casting, and her greatest speed during the distance being 15½ knots per hour. From this date, December 22, met with adverse winds from east to south-east and east-south-east, blowing fresh. On Christmas Day, first made land at Cape Bridgewater, about one o'clock p.m., wind blowing fresh from east-south-east, driving ship fast to the north. During that night and the following day, the wind continued from the same point, compelling us to tack frequently. On Wednesday, at twelve o'clock noon, wind blowing fresh, tacked ship, being then about four miles off shore; stood in again at six p.m., the wind blowing from the same quarter. About half-past ten p.m., land was faintly visible, and the wind fell off to a dead calm. Shortly before eleven o'clock p.m., the order was given to 'bunt ship'; the ship partially came round, and then refused to answer the helm. It was then tried to wear ship, but a current running westward, from three to four knots an hour—of which we were ignorant, and of which no mention is made in any existing chart—rendered the attempt unsuccessful, and carried the ship into a sand-spit, about thirty-five miles west of Cape Otway, not laid down in any of the charts.

"Immediately before the vessel struck, and while wearing, took a cast of the lead, and found bottom at 17 fathoms, the vessel striking immediately afterwards in four fathoms. All sail was kept on the ship, in the hope of carrying her over the sand-spit, but it was found unavailing, and a

boat lowered to take soundings round the ship having reported shallow water on all sides, and a heavy southerly swell and strong westerly current heaving the ship into shallow water, clewed up all sail, and let go the starboard anchor. The boats were then got out, and every possible preparation made for the preservation of the passengers, which was eventually accomplished on the following morning by the aid of the steamer Queen, Captain Doran, whose kindness and prompt assistance will entitle him to public gratitude."

From the "Argus" of Jan. 7, it appears that the matter was to be taken up by Government. The emigration agent was about to lay informations at the instance of the passengers. The wreck of the *Schomberg* had been visited by Lloyd's agent; she was not totally broken up, but there was no opportunity of communicating with the wreck. It was not expected that anything would be saved.

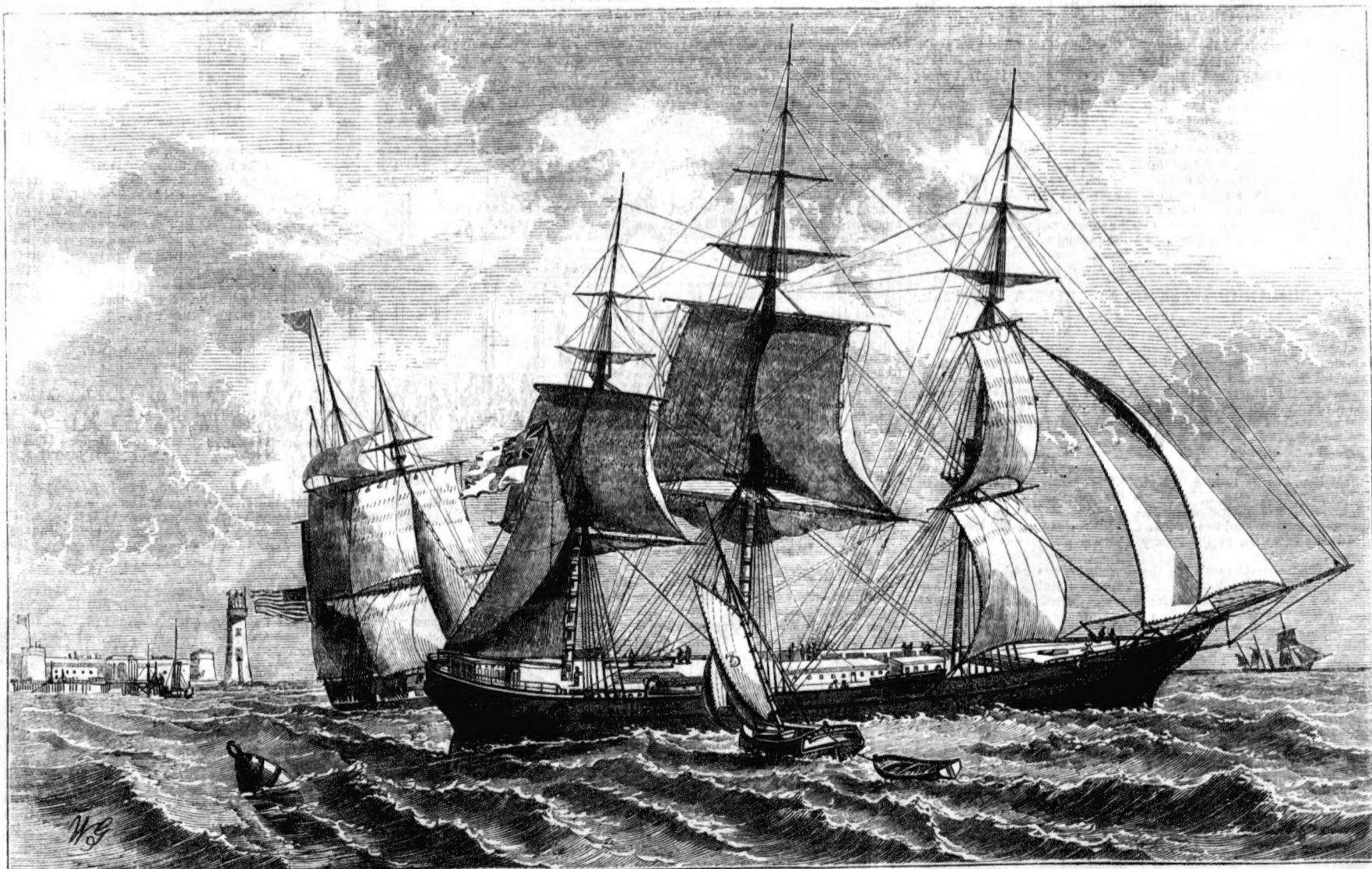
On the 3rd of January the passengers by the *Schomberg* convened a public meeting at the Mechanics' Institution, the object of which was to investigate the cause of the wreck, and to reclaim the baggage of the passengers. The alleged immorality committed on board may be gathered from the following statements of the passengers and the resolutions carried at the meeting, as given in the "Argus" of the 4th of January. In giving these particulars it may be as well for us to state that we eschew everything like an *ex parte* view of the case. We shall give a summary of the evidence adduced on both sides, and leave our readers to draw their own inferences:—

At the meeting referred to, Mr. McIville proposed the first resolution. He said he was one of the unfortunate passengers by the *Schomberg*. He had been requested to attend, and he had accordingly done so, and begged to propose the first resolution, which was as follows:—"Resolved—that the conduct of the captain, the surgeon, and officers of the *Schomberg* was ungentlemanly, discourteous, and tyrannical, and grossly immoral." He might say, in reference to the ungentlemanly, discourteous, and tyrannical conduct of the captain, that there could be no doubt of it; but he must add that there were some exceptions amongst the officers—although he thought it would be better not then to specify them.

Mr. Fenn said he came forward not merely as the friend of Captain Forbes, but as a friend of fair play, and it would, in his opinion, be a disgrace to the meeting and its chairman to pass this resolution unless better grounds for it were shown. Mr. McIville should have cited some instance of the



RIGHT HON. CHARLES PELHAM VILLIERS, M.P., JUDGE ADVOCATE, CONDUCTING THE CRIMEAN INQUIRY AT CHELSEA HOSPITAL.



THE AUSTRALIAN CLIPPER SHIP, SCHOMBERG.—(SKETCHED AT LIVERPOOL, BEFORE STARTING ON HER LAST VOYAGE.)

tyranny or immorality of Captain Forbes to support a resolution of this nature, and until some such cases were brought forward, he for one should hold up his hand against the resolution.

Mr. Gotkin would give one instance of the tyranny and discourtesy of the Captain, and that was towards Mr. Melville. The Captain entered Mr. Melville's cabin, and the latter gentleman complained that he was kept short of provisions—in fact, half starved, and that the provisions were not fit for a dog. To this the captain replied that they were a set of dirty dogs, and what they had was good enough.

Mr. Carpenter said that, as another instance of the tyranny of the captain, he might state that he had taken two unfortunate Irishmen out of their berths in the night, and confined them in the wheel-house until four or five o'clock in the morning. He called them, at the same time, "a—Irish crew and set of rebels," and said that he would be "down on them."

Mr. Stockdale stated that no one on board of the ship had the slightest doubt that the conduct of the captain and his officers had been immoral. There were two "lady" passengers on board in the second cabin, one of them belonging to his (Mr. Stockdale's) mess, No. 8. These females were kept out of their cabins by the captain and his officers until very unseasonable hours. The first occasion on which any dispute arose on the matter was when one of these ladies was kept in the captain's cabin until one o'clock in the morning. The second lady preferred the daylight, for she came back at four in the morning, and then only in her night dress. The door of her cabin, however, was shut against her, and she did not obtain entrance until a full exposure of her conduct had been made.

Their provisions were not of the quality, nor in the quantities, they were led to expect, nor had their contracts been fulfilled. They were aware that, by the act of parliament, they were allowed three quarts of fresh water per diem, over and above that required for cooking. During the first part of the voyage, they had never received more than two quarts, and latterly not more than a quart and a half, hardly more than enough to wash with. The quality of the water, which was bad at first, became afterwards better, and soon afterwards they got some filters.

Mr. Kelso said that it was a notorious fact that the captain of the Schomberg kept a woman in the second cabin, and the same thing with the doctor. It was every day, all day, and all night. When he went to the doctor for some medicine, he saw this female sitting in his cabin.

Mr. Gotkin moved the second resolution—"Resolved, That it is not only the general impression of the passengers by the Schomberg, but to the certain knowledge of many of those here assembled, that the loss of that fine ship can only be attributed to the gross negligence of the captain." The vessel at the commencement of the voyage had borne very rough weather, and had behaved well. When the intelligence was brought to the captain that the vessel was nearing the shore, why did he not come up? No, he indulged too much in his own pleasures to care much for the safety of his passengers. He did not wish to say much against the captain, however, for they had been at variance on board the ship, but he felt that the public at large should be satisfied. When the captain was made aware of the dangerous position of the ship, he did certainly come up, and told the crew to put the ship in stays. His orders were obeyed, and one of the officers told him soon afterwards of the condition of the vessel, and he replied, "Let her go to h—l, and tell me where she is on the beach." If such were the words he used, was it not design rather than negligence which cast her ashore?

Mr. Williams said that when the vessel struck he was on the forecastle. He had been there from ten o'clock, and many of the passengers had seen land a-head. He told a man named Cavanagh to awaken the watch, who were asleep. Cavanagh (who was a passenger to Sydney) roared out that there was land a-head, and the first mate, who heard him, said it was only a cloud. He called out a second time, and they then stopped him. He was so convinced that the ship would strike, that he ran down to some friends of his in the second cabin, and told them to put on their clothes. He said that it was not his intention to go to bed, and he advised them not to do so either. He said that, in his opinion, the ship would be wilfully run against the beach. This impression arose from his want of confidence in the captain, and from his proceedings on the previous evening. Such was his impression then, and so it remained. The captain had once threatened to put him in irons because he looked at him; he had no other excuse for doing so.

The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter moved the third resolution—"That this meeting is of opinion that the contracts entered into between James Baines and Co. of Liverpool, and the passengers by the Schomberg, have not been fulfilled." As to the provisions they had received, they were not fit for use.

Mr. Wharton said that he agreed with the resolution, for they had great cause to complain. Neither the proper quantity nor quality of provisions had been served out to them. For instance, they had four ducks and four knuckles of ham to mess a number of the passengers, and frequently the provisions were in such a condition that several passengers left the saloon and went without dinner, which, however, he could not afford to do. They often had soup that stank, and meat that was tainted. After the strong inducements which the Black Ball Line had held out to them, and the way in which they had been fulfilled, he felt that nothing too severe could be said against them.

The resolution was subsequently put and carried.

Mr. Stockdale moved the fourth resolution—"That a deputation be appointed to wait on His Excellency the officer administering the government, praying that an investigation be held into the circumstances attending the loss of the Schomberg, and the property of the passengers."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Nearly the whole of the passengers, together with the European mails, were transferred to the steamer *Queen*, and landed at Melbourne, without loss of life or limb; and it is due to the chief officer, Henry Cooper, Keen, and to one of the chief cabin passengers, Mr. Millar, architect and civil engineer, of Belfast, Ireland, to state that it is chiefly owing to the presence of mind and courage displayed by them during the trying scene, that no loss of life occurred.

The Melbourne agents despatched the steamers *Marion* and *Kerra* to the scene of the disaster, and Captain Matthews, Lloyd's agent, visited the scene of the disaster in one of these steamers.

The *Schomberg* is reported to have gone to pieces. The Australian papers are full of comments upon the loss. The Chamber of Commerce and the Legislative Council had taken up the subject, and no doubt a searching investigation will take place. All the passengers' luggage had been saved.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION AT CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

The Commission of General Officers of Inquiry, consequent on the publication of the report of Sir J. M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch, held their first meeting on April 3, in the room specially prepared for the purpose in Chelsea College. As there had been no public notice that the long-expected inquiry was to take place, the number of spectators was small, in fact, smaller than the number of police in attendance to keep order. At twenty-five minutes past eleven the Commissioners entered the hall in full uniform, and took their seats at the table. Sir Alexander Woodford occupied the chair, as President of the Board. The other commissioners were Earl Beauchamp, Sir G. Berkeley, Generals Knollys and Peel, Sir John Bell, and General Rowan. The Judge Advocate-General (the Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P., of whom we this week give a portrait) sat at the table, as did Colonel Bagot (Secretary to the Commission) and Lieut.-Colonel Douglass, of the Adjutant-General's department, who attended to represent the Horse Guards. The only officer personally concerned in the inquiry who was present was the Earl of Lucan.

The Royal warrant appointing the Commission was read, and a letter from Lord Panmure to Field-Marshal Viscount Hardinge, signifying her Majesty's pleasure for the appointment of a Board for the purpose of taking into consideration so much of the "Reports on the Supplies to the British Army in the Crimea," lately presented to both Houses of Parliament, as animadverts upon the conduct of Major-General the Earl of Lucan, K.C.B.; Major-General the Earl of Cardigan, K.C.B.; Major-General Sir Richard Airey, K.C.B., Quartermaster-General; Colonel the Hon. Alexander Gordon, C.B. (Grenadier Guards), Deputy Quartermaster-General.

At the request of the President, the Judge-Advocate then read the rules of proceeding, which are as follow :

1. The proceedings of this Board will be conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with the practice of ordinary military courts of inquiry.

2. Evidence may be given before the Board either in the form of written statements to be read out to the Board, by the parties tendering such statements, or by the oral examination of witnesses, conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with the ordinary military practice.

3. This Board is not empowered to examine witnesses on oath.

4. Every military witness will be informed that he is at liberty to decline making any statement which may form the subject of a charge against him before a court martial, and that any statement which he may make, after being so cautioned, will be admissible in evidence against him.

5. The cases of the several parties who are considered to have a right to appear before the Board will be taken separately.

A miscellaneous conversation then took place respecting the manner in

which the proceedings ought to be conducted, after which the Commission adjourned about twelve o'clock.

The Commissioners sat again on Monday at the appointed time. The Court was well filled. The Duke of Cambridge, Lord Raglan, General Airey, General Wilson, Sir Edmund Lyons, and Mr. Commissary-General Filder were among the more distinguished visitors.

The President of the Court having enjoined the maintenance of decorum, the Judge Advocate-General called upon Lord Lucan to state what part of the report, in his apprehension, affected his character. After some preliminary discussion, which arose from Lord Lucan endeavouring, without effect, to prevail upon the Commissioners to arrive at a decision in his case immediately after the evidence he intended to bring forward was concluded, before entering further upon the inquiry, his Lordship (who was attended by his legal adviser) proceeded with his case, and read those portions of the report to which he took exception. He then proceeded to deliver his defence, which was partly verbal and partly written. He denied the charges preferred against him. No loss of horses was justly chargeable upon him. The Commissioners estimated that 47 per cent. of heavy cavalry horses had died by disease between October 1854, and March 1855, whereas 50 per cent. was the correct proportion. The estimate respecting the horses of the Light Division was 65 per cent., and not 38 per cent. as stated by the Commissioners. His Lordship contended that little reliance could be placed on a report which contained such blunders. Referring to another point, he said the construction of stabling was a novelty to him, and all under his command, and after various unsuccessful attempts to get the requisite assistance, he obtained 100 or 150 men for a few days. His Lordship subsequently referred, at considerable length, to the whole question of the employment of the cavalry horses in the transport service, and attributed much of the disease and mortality to their being so employed.

In Lord Lucan's despatch on January 17, 1855, to Lord Raglan, we find the following particulars respecting "the fearful consequences" of the cavalry having to do transport work :

"Independent of the loss to the army of so important a branch of the service, the pecuniary loss to the country, from the destruction of so many horses, is enormous. Much above 400 are gone already; as many more may be expected to go; 800 horses will have been worth £60,000, and I wish to direct the attention of the Field-Marshal to the fact, whereas a troop horse is worth £75, baggage ponies can be procured in Asia Minor and elsewhere at £5 a-head to any amount; and as the pony carries on a pack-saddle two bags of biscuit, a load requiring four troop horses, two to ride and two to carry, the pony costing £5, is equal to a transport power from troop horses of £300."

The report stated that few horses were employed in commissariat duties; but his Lordship quoted figures to show that more than 500 horses had been so used. Coming to the last paragraph of the report, affecting himself, he said, that it charged him with a want of promptitude, or ingenuity, in devising some means of temporary shelter for the horses. He declared that this charge was disfigured by a spirit of detraction—that he had done all he could to provide shelter for the horses—and that it was unjust to compare them, exposed, as they were, on a plateau, to the baggage animals at Balaklava, provided with every convenience.

The only witness examined was Colonel Gordon, who stated, in reply to questions put to him by Lord Lucan, that Lieut. Stokes, on the 12th December, and subsequently Lieut. Lennox, were appointed the engineers to superintend the erection of the stables. He could not say of his own knowledge, that Lieut. Stokes was appointed on the day he had named.

Lord Lucan said he could show by a journal kept by his son, Lord Bingham, that Colonel Gordon was altogether in error, and that Mr. Stokes never got the order at all at that time.

Lord Lucan : Are you aware that Captain Chapman was the first engineer officer appointed to the duty, and he only visited the camp the first time on the 17th of November?—I never heard of Captain Chapman being appointed to that duty, and as he had charge, I believe, of the left attack, I am surprised to hear that he was appointed to construct huts for the cavalry. It is the first time I have heard such a suggestion made.

Lord Lucan : You are not aware that he visited the camp for the first time on the 17th of November?—My answer is, I never heard of Captain Chapman having been employed on such duty till this moment.

Lord Lucan : Can you tell me on what day or how often Mr. Stokes attended the cavalry camp?—I cannot.

The witness, in answer to further questions, said he was aware that Mr. Stokes and Lieutenant Lennox were appointed to do duty at the cavalry camp, but could not tell how often they visited it.

Lord Lucan : Would it, then, surprise you to be told that Lieutenant Stokes attended on the 22nd of November, and upon that occasion only; and Mr. Lennox only on the day he came to present himself?—Nothing would surprise me. (Laughter.)

Lord Lucan : But you do not think it impossible?—It does not surprise me.

Lord Lucan said it was quite clear that Colonel Gordon believed he had the assistance of an engineer officer, which he thought he had shown to the Court had never been afforded him.

Colonel Gordon replied that Lord Lucan misunderstood him. His evidence was, that an engineer officer had been placed at his Lordship's disposal, but he had made no statement as to whether that engineer officer had attended or not.

Lord Lucan said that, with the best intentions on the part of the Quartermaster-General, he was left to do the best he could on this point.

The Board resumed its sittings on Tuesday. Lord Lucan, who appeared in an excited state, indignantly referred to an article in the "Times," of that morning, prejudging the case, and calculated, in his opinion, to do him serious injury. His Lordship then proceeded to examine Colonel Griffiths, who said that two days after the storming of Sebastopol, he went to Lord Lucan to ask his order for the picquet. It was not ready. Lord Lucan then referred to a coat he had on. In the course of the conversation he said, "My Lord, I fear that if something is not done immediately for my horses, they will suffer considerably, and I shall lose the greater part of them," having already lost a considerable number. Lord Lucan replied, "Do you think I have not thought of that already. I have a great mind to put you under arrest." Respecting the horses, he said, when they lay down they were covered with water and mud, and the consequence was that with the sudden change of the weather, a frost coming on, the horse, if it lay down all night or in the day, was so paralysed with the frost, and so frozen, that he could not rise—his spine being paralysed with the frost, and we lost many of them. The Turks made a few very fine huts.

Sir R. Airey was then called, and stated that Lord Lucan was in constant communication with Lord Raglan respecting the sheltering of the horses, and that every exertion was employed to that purpose. After some further evidence, Lord Lucan produced a letter he had received from Lord Raglan relative to the hutting. Further evidence of minor importance was then educed, and the Court adjourned.

Upon the inquiry being resumed on Wednesday, Lord Lucan, in a state of great excitement, called the attention of the Court to another leading article in the "Times," and requested the Court would take some decided step in reference to it. The Court made no observation upon the subject. The Deputy Judge-Advocate then asked Lord Lucan to what he attributed the great mortality amongst the horses during the time the cavalry division was under his command? Lord Lucan thereupon made a long speech in exculpation, shifting the blame, as far as possible, on other parties.

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

The Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, brother of the Earl of Clarendon, and of the new Bishop of Carlisle, is in his 55th year or thereabouts, and was, in 1827, called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn. Some time later, 1855, he was elected Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton, and by moving annually for a repeal of the Corn Laws, succeeded in bringing himself into public notice.

Thus it came to pass, naturally enough, that when the Coalition Ministry was formed, Mr. Villiers, who for twenty years previously had been silently enjoying a snug and lucrative sinecure in the Court of Chancery, was nominated Judge-Advocate General, and in this capacity he has a prominent part to play in connection with the proceedings before the Crimean Commission.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XIII.

NOTABILITIES SEEN IN THE LOBBY.

We have before said, or ought to have said, that the lobby of the House is the best place in the world to see the world's notabilities. No foreigner, of course, comes to England, during the session, without paying a visit to the House of Commons; and everybody in England—whether "known to fame," or "born to blush unseen," will like to see the House, and hear the debates, sometime during his life, or, probably, have some business to transact with some one or other of the members. A constant attendance, therefore, in the lobby, will be sure to bring you into contact with all sorts of people. The officers and policemen in the lobby probably have seen as many celebrities in their time as the Premier. Not long ago we were lounging in this place, when we were startled by hearing the name of Rawlinson, and, on inquiry, we found that the tall, handsome man with the moustache, who had for some time been pacing up and down with Mr. Danby Seymour, was the learned orientalist, whose name is as familiar to every reader of Eastern travels as household words. At another time, a magnificent-looking fellow, in Eastern costume—certainly one of the handsomest men we ever saw—entered upon the scene. His noble port and manly bearing attracted our attention at once—we were certain that he was "somebody;" and we soon discovered that he was an Afghan chief—one of those splendid cavalry officers, whose prowess England has often had to acknowledge. The man was a study, and kept our eyes riveted for some time. It is by no means uncommon to see the Indian costume in the Ambassadors' Gallery, and very picturesque it looks there, contrasting with the plain and unclad dress of our senators. And so let us take our stand in the lobby again. We shall be sure to see somebody of greater or lesser note.

"JACOB OMNIVUS" OF THE "TIMES."

Here is one. Do you see that gigantic man in the centre, talking to a cluster of members, and overtopping all by head and shoulders? That is "Jacob Omnivus" of the "Times." His real name is Higgins. Some military matters are to be discussed to-night, and he has come to learn whether any of his suggestions are likely to be carried out. He will find no difficulty in getting under the gallery, and there he will sit below the bar, but having more real power, perhaps, over the decision, than many that sit above it. And now for a contrast. Look at that short, dirty fellow there, with unmistakable signs of debauch in his face—we mean that individual talking familiarly to the Right Hon. Sir —, looking like what he is—some loose fellow from the lowest slums of London. What his name is we know not, nor where he comes from; but he is often here, and is evidently known to almost all the metropolitan members. It is whispered that he is a scout at elections, but he must be more than that. Whatever office he holds, it is certainly a permanent one, and in its way important, for we have seen him, dirty as he is, take an honourable member by the arm, as familiarly as if they were brothers. "It is a pity his employers do not clothe him better." Nay, we question whether anything could be safely done in that way—for the gentleman is evidently a soaker. Indeed, we met him ourselves the other day in the New Road, in very suspicious case. He was either very drunk or absorbed in tracing an imaginary line on the pavement, "more meandering than meander."

LORD HOTHAM, AND THE "BLUE COATS."

Let us ascend, however, to nobler men. "Who is that tall man with the short-waisted blue coat?" That is Lord Hotham; he is one of the few members who stick to the blue coat and brass buttons, and the only man who adheres to the cut as well as the colour which prevailed forty years ago. At that period members generally wore this costume; but now we have only four blue coats left in the House—Lord Hotham's, Mr. Henley's, Mr. Wrightson's, and Mr. Tancred's. The "blue and buff," once the distinctive costume of the Whigs, is quite passed away, not only in the House, but throughout the country, except as a cover to the old Whig organ, the "Edinburgh Review." "Old Williams," the late door-keeper, used to be very wrathful about the dress of modern members. "In my young days," he has often said to us, "Members used to dress like gentlemen; but now they come in shooting-jackets, and all sorts of queer coats."

MR. DALLAS AND SIR EDWARD BULWER-LYTTON.

The tall gentleman with the silver hair is Mr. Dallas, the new American Minister. And there goes another celebrity. Do you see that strange-looking man with the bushy moustache, imperial, and aquiline nose? That is the famous novelist, Sir Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer-Lytton. He certainly is, as you say, a very remarkable-looking man. He always walks about in that abstracted manner, rather stooping, his hat on the back of his head, his hands thrust into his trouser pockets, and his eyes cast downwards—looking for all the world as if he fancied that he had lost something, and was searching on the ground, and feeling for it in his pockets at the same time. It is generally known about the House when he is going to speak, as he then wanders about more abstractedly than usual. The Hon. Baronet is not an effective speaker; not, however, because his matter is not good, but because his action spoils all. It is well known that he studies his speeches well before hand—would that he would, under proper guidance, study how to deliver them. His manner is this: He begins a sentence standing upright, in his usual tone; as he gets to the middle he throws himself backwards, until you would fancy that he must tumble over, and gradually raises his voice to its highest pitch. He then begins to lower his tone, and bring his body forwards; so that at the finish of the sentence his head nearly touches his knees, and the climax of the sentence is lost in a whisper; and yet, notwithstanding this serious drawback, there are but few members whose speeches are comparable to Sir Edward's. Strange that a man who thinks it worth his while carefully to get up his matter, should pay so little attention to his manner.

THE HOUSE ON A SUPPLY NIGHT.

But it is time to go into the House—though we fear there is not much doing there to-night. As we thought—you see the Speaker is not in the chair—the House is in supply. "Why, there are not forty members in the House; how is it that they can go on?" Because no one notices the fact. If any Hon. Member were to call the Chairman's attention to it, he must count the House; but until then it is taken for granted that there is a sufficient number—this is a rule of the House. We have seen, once in our time, a bill passed a stage, when, besides the Speaker, there were only three members in the House; and have seen millions voted when there were not more than thirty. You stare, and seem indignant that the great interests of the country should be so neglected; but you must remember that most of these heavy votes are matters of course, and that it is known by the printed notices that they will not be disputed. If any notice to dispute an important vote were on the paper, you would see the House much fuller. When the Maynooth or an Educational Grant comes on, there will be some 300 members present; and you must also recollect that though there are only a few members actually in the House, there are plenty "about." Let but the division bell ring, and in a minute these empty benches would show a very different appearance. Voting supplies is very dull work; nor does the oratory of Mr. Williams and Mr. Huddiefield much enliven it. By-the-by, did you ever hear the riddle about Williams? Why is the Member for Lambeth like Smollett? Do you give it up? Because he is a bad continuation of Hume. Come, let us go; the Hon. Member is on his legs.

ORIGIN OF THE TIPPERARY BANK.—The connection of Mr. James Scully, of Athassel, with the Tipperary Joint-Stock Bank, was owing to shares having, we understand, been bought in it by his father; and the origin of the bank itself is attributed principally to Mr. James Sadler, acting in connection with, or as agent for, the Bank of Ireland. Mr. James Sadler had been clerk in the National Bank, and leaving it, is stated to have made efforts to embarrass the local branch by collecting its notes in considerable sums, and demanding gold unexpectedly. It is said that, on the occasion of a fair day in Clonmel, he entered the bank with some thousands of pounds, and, demanding gold for the amount, caused a partial run on the branch that day. It is also stated that, owing to his representations, or those of another party, a discount office in connection with the Bank of Ireland was then opened in Clonmel—it was thought in opposition to the National Bank; and that thence ensued the relations which were formed between the former and the Tipperary Joint-Stock Bank, by which its notes have been since used and issued.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS BILL.

The Earl of DERRY, on the motion for going into committee on this bill, commented on the inquisitorial machinery which it was proposed to enact for the purpose of obtaining information respecting agricultural stock and produce. He insisted upon the necessity of observing great forbearance and delicacy in pursuing investigations upon this subject, and recommended that the inquiry should be instituted through the medium of the magistrates' clerks rather than the functionaries of the Poor Law Board.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY retained his preference for the measure as it stood. Describing the nature of the information to be collected, as well as the ordinary functions devolving upon the poor-law officers, he contended that the latter were admirably qualified to ascertain and methodise all the facts which it was most desirable to accumulate for the purpose of providing regular and complete returns of agricultural statistics.

Some further discussion took place, after which their Lordships went into committee on the bill.

Lord DERRY moved an amendment in committee, designed to carry out the modifications which he had suggested in the machinery of the measure. This amendment, after some discussion, was negatived upon a division by a majority of 18 to 13—5.

The bill then passed through committee.

Their Lordships adjourned at twenty minutes past eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CASE OF SUSANNAH EVANS.

Mr HILDYARD asked whether the attention of the Government had been directed to the case of Susannah Evans, a girl of sixteen years of age, conveyed to Hamburg for the purpose of prostitution; and whether, in consequence of the disclosures elicited in the investigation of that case before Sir R. Carden, any correspondence had taken place between the Foreign Secretary and Col. Hodges, the British Consul at Hamburg?

Sir G. GREY answered that means had been taken to ascertain the facts as regarded the proceedings which are known to take place at Liverpool, Newcastle, and Hull, the ports of shipment, with the view of putting an end to the infamous traffic.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

Viscount GODERICH asked whether a document, which had recently appeared, purporting to be a despatch written by the British Minister at Washington to the Secretary of State of the United States, on the 27th day of February last, with reference to the disputes between this country and the United States on the subject of Central America, was authentic?

Mr. GLADSTONE, restricting himself to the Central American dispute, as to which it had been stated that the correspondence had closed on both sides, complained of the delay which had taken place in the production of the papers. These papers ought to be produced forthwith, or the House ought to understand, such should be the case, that the subject had not actually passed from the hands of the Government, and that no ultimatum had been exchanged between the two Powers. Mr. Gladstone spoke of the desirableness of the "voice" of Parliament being heard, which he was sure would convey nothing but the most friendly, most affectionate feelings, towards their American brethren, the rather as other "voices" had been heard uttering defiant and inflammatory incentives to war. He also adverted to the rumour that the military force in our North American colonies is to be increased, and deprecated any such movement till Parliament had expressed its views.

Lord PALMERSTON reminded Mr. Gladstone of the pressure which had been put upon the Foreign Office in consequence of the recent proceedings at Paris, and in the preparation of the Kars correspondence. It was neither a short nor an easy task to select and prepare a voluminous series of papers. The papers relative to Central America would, he trusted, be ready in a few days. As to the "exhortations" indulged in by Mr. Gladstone, he (Lord Palmerston) would not follow his example and discuss questions while the means of forming an opinion were not available. With regard to Lord Goderich's question, the publication referred to is a correct copy of the communication.

The motion for adjournment was then agreed to.

THE CONDUCT OF SIR C. NAPIER AT ACRE.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM craved the indulgence of the House while he adverted to a matter personal to himself. Statements were contained in a letter addressed by Sir Charles Napier to a morning newspaper, dated March 15, in which the assertions made by him (Sir J. Graham), in his reply to Sir C. Napier on a previous occasion, as to the part which the Gallant Admiral had taken in the attack on Acre, were flatly contradicted. The statements made by Admiral Berkeley on the same subject were likewise denounced as false. Sir J. Graham proceeded to mention that he was now prepared to make good his statement. Owing to the deaths of Sir R. Stopford and some other officers, and the absence of others who held commands, the best evidence could not be adduced, but he was prepared, nevertheless, to offer good evidence. Sir James proceeded to make good the assertion that the naval attack on Acre was not made at the suggestion of Sir C. Napier, but in opposition to his opinion; that he placed his ship, the Powerful, in a position different from that allotted to it by Sir R. Stopford, and, in consequence of his so doing, the operations were thrown into considerable confusion. For the course so taken, Admiral Napier was censured by the Admiralty in command. (The evidence founded upon by Sir James Graham, consisted chiefly of extracts from official papers, statements by Sir Baldwin Walker, who was in the Turkish Service, from Captain Codrington, who commanded the Talbot, and who spoke with the concurrence of Sir Houston Stewart, and a statement from Sir Charles Smith.)

Sir CHARLES NAPIER also adverted to the difficulty of procuring the most direct evidence from the deaths and removals of officers, but he was in possession of papers to show that the charge made against him was entirely without foundation. He then gave a narrative of the operations in Syria, and quoted complimentary notes he had received from officers as to his gallantry in the several operations which occurred. He appealed also to Lord Palmerston for a certificate, as no man knew better than he did his (Sir Charles Napier's) merits in connection with the Syrian war. He admitted that he was not on the best terms with Admiral Stopford, arising, he believed, from his frequent incentives to activity, the Commander-in-Chief being "slow." He did not oppose the attack on Acre, but he insisted on a particular mode of attack, and that mode was ultimately adopted. Sir Robert Stopford found fault with his conduct in the management of his ship, and he asked for a court-martial, but this was declined, and Sir Robert subsequently apologised. The change which occurred in the wind and other circumstances compelled him to change the position of his ship. He anchored at the strongest point of the batteries. Sir Charles interspersed his defence with reference to previous services, and concluded with renewing his complaints as to the treatment he experienced as commander of the Baltic fleet.

Admiral BERKELEY spoke in vindication of himself and the Board of Admiralty. Everything had been done to break the fall of the Commander of the Baltic fleet.

Mr. LINDSAY spoke of his heart as being "sore" at the manner in which the Gallant Admiral had been harassed. He considered his defence as "triumphant."

Mr. MALINS and Mr. ROEBUCK indulged in severe remarks at the expense of Sir G. Graham and Admiral Berkeley.

Mr. COWPER defended his colleague (Admiral Berkeley), and spoke of Admiral Napier's "indiscretions" pen as having brought about all his troubles.

Admiral WALCOTT attributed blame to both sides. He deplored the discussion, deeming it unfortunate and unnecessary.

The House then went into committee on the civil estimates, and continued for several hours, and at twenty-five minutes to one the House adjourned.

MONDAY, APRIL 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE.

The Earl of HARDWICKE moved for papers connected with the delay which had taken place in organising a regular postal communication between the Australian colonies and the mother country.

The Duke of ARGYLL said that active steps were being taken to remedy the inconvenience. Tenders had been called for in February for the performance of the service, and Government were now in possession of information which would enable them to arrange the cheapest and most rapid means of carrying on correspondence with those colonies.

THE CURRENCY.

The Earl of EGLINTON moved the appointment of a Royal commission to inquire into the operation of the Bank Charter Act, and entered into a lengthened analysis of the operations of the Bank, and their result, since the renewal of the charter in 1844. The Noble Earl contended for the necessity of a thorough investigation, in order to discover the safest means of enlarging the currency, and of remodelling the constitution of the Bank management.

Some conversation ensued, in the course of which

The Duke of ARGYLL said that the Government were quite satisfied with the operation of the Bank Charter Act, and had no intention to call upon Parliament to alter it; but he would nevertheless offer no opposition to the motion of the Noble Earl. The motion was then withdrawn.

The Out-pensioners (Greenwich and Chelsea) Bill was then read and passed; and their Lordships adjourned at five minutes to seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PEACE.—CUSTOM-HOUSE REGULATIONS.

Mr. WILSON (of whom we give a portrait in another column) stated, in reply to Mr. Thornely, that an order in council would be issued on Tuesday to discon-

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

tinue the bonds which had been required during the existence of the war upon the exportation of iron and other articles which could be converted to military uses. These bonds would, he intimated, be still necessary upon the exportation of munitions of war until the treaty of peace was finally ratified.

REVIEWS IN THE CRIMEA ON SUNDAYS.

Mr. PEEL said that two reviews had been held in the Crimea on Sundays, but as a general rule such a practice would not be encouraged by the Government.

THE MILITIA AND FOREIGN TROOPS.

Mr. PEEL said it was in contemplation to "disembody" the militia in Ireland if the treaty of peace should be ratified; and that the foreign troops in the pay of this country would in due time be disbanded.

SUPPLY.—BILLETING IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. COWAN, on the House going into supply, moved—"That in the opinion of the House the practice of billeting soldiers of the militia and of the line in Scotland upon private families is injurious to the comfort and discipline of the men, as well as oppressive to the people; and that it is the duty of the Government to take means permanently to abolish the grievance."

Sir A. AGNEW seconded the amendment, which was supported by Mr. Baxter.

Mr. PEEL said the conclusion of the war put an end of itself to the grievance complained of. The Government had done their utmost to mitigate the evil, which could not be very extensively felt, for there were only 2,000 militiamen billeted in the whole of Scotland.

The LORD-ADVOCATE admitted the evil, but hoped that confidence would be placed in the Government to apply the remedy.

Considerable discussion ensued, in which the members from Scotland pressed the amendment on the House with great earnestness.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the whole question was one of finance, and the Government ought not to be hampered and embarrassed by the House resiling to adopt an abstract resolution, having no immediate practical effect.

After some further discussion, Lord PALMERSTON said he could see no objection to assimilate the law of Scotland to that of England, but this could only be done by altering the Mutiny Act, which would not be under consideration until next year, and in the meantime the Government would consider by what means the evil could be obviated.

The House then divided, and ministers were defeated by a majority of 139 to 116. The announcement of the numbers was received with cheers by the Opposition.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and proceeded to discuss a series of votes relating to the miscellaneous Civil Service estimates.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

On the vote of £17,639 for the expenses of the National Gallery.

Mr. OTWAY moved that the vote be reduced by £650. He characterised the appointments of Sir C. Eastlake and Mr. Munder to the posts of director and travelling agent as bad and "positively unnecessary." In the course of his speech he stated that the entire press of the country agreed with him. He particularly mentioned the "Times," "Daily News," "Illustrated Times," "Examiner," &c.

Mr. H. VERNON seconded the amendment.

Mr. BOWLER thought that £1,000 a year, with travelling expenses, was too great a remuneration to the director—regard being had to the duties performed. The most important part of his duty consisted in getting opinions with respect to the purchase of pictures, and he should have thought that Sir C. Eastlake and the Royal Academy, of which he was President, and which enjoyed privileges from the Government, would have considered it an honour to be consulted in reference to the purchase of pictures, and would have given their opinion for nothing.

Lord ELCHO did not consider £1,000 a year too large a salary. "But, strange to say," he added, "the Secretary to the Treasury had greatly exceeded the wishes and expectations of the committee, for he had not only granted the salary of £1,000 to the director, but he had also appointed a secretary with a salary of nearly £800. The question of appointing a travelling agent had never been mooted before the committee, and he thought that appointment, as well as the appointment of a secretary with £800 a year, was unnecessary, because all the sales at Messrs. Christie's and other well-known auctioneers took place in the summer. No pictures could be purchased in England during the winter season, and at that time the director might go abroad and act as his own travelling agent. In appointing Sir C. Eastlake to the post of director, the Government had been guilty of a mistake."

Mr. WILSON said, with regard to the motion for the reduction of the vote, he must inform the committee, that, although Sir Charles did travel last year, it was no part of his duty to do so, and he could not incur travelling expenses without the sanction of the trustees and of the Treasury. It would obviously be useless to appoint a travelling agent, if he were not allowed his expenses. It was thought better that the offices of keeper and secretary should be combined in the same person, and that the salary should be sufficiently high to secure the services of a competent person. Mr. Wornum was, therefore, both keeper and secretary to the trustees, and in these capacities he had to perform a duty of a most important kind in the preparation of a catalogue of the pictures, which would be one of the most interesting histories of art in this country. It was thought that a salary of £750 would not be too high for such an officer.

After some further discussion, the amendment was negatived by a majority of 152 to 72—80. The vote was then agreed to.

The grant of £3,000 to the Royal Society for scientific purposes was then passed.

On resuming, the report from the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to.

The Public Works Bill and the Public Works (Ireland) Bill, went through committee.

Lord ELCHO obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the medical profession.

Mr. LOWE obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of partnership.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past two o'clock.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Agricultural Statistics Bill was read a third time and passed. After some discussion, returns relative to the finances of our Indian empire were ordered, on the motion of the Marquis of Clanricarde.

Their Lordships adjourned at five minutes past seven till Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHURCH-RATES BILL.

Sir WILLIAM CLAY, in answer to Lord Robert Cecil, stated that he intended to accede to the changes which the Government had made in his Church-rates Bill.

FALL OF KARS.

Mr. WHITESIDE postponed his motion on the fall of Kars to the 24th inst.

MEDALS, ETC., FOR THE ARMY IN THE EAST.

Mr. PEEL, in answer to Major Sibthorpe, stated that some of the medals forwarded by the French Government to decorate English soldiers who had fought in the Crimea, had been received and distributed. He had heard that the Turkish Government intended also to decorate English soldiers, but he had no certain knowledge of the fact. The Victoria Cross would be conferred for past as well as for future acts of gallantry.

INCOME AND PROPERTY TAX.

Mr. MUNZT adverted to the hardships and injustice involved in the mode of imposing and levying the income tax, and moved—"That, in the opinion of this House, an equitable adjustment of the income and property tax is essential to the interests of the country, particularly as regards the rates of payment upon industrial and professional incomes, compared with those derived from fixed property."

Mr. POLLARD-URQUHART seconded the motion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted the importance of the motion. Under the present law, the tax will be reduced from 1s. 4d. to 5d. per pound in April, 1858, the period prescribed in the event of peace taking place; and the impost will entirely cease in 1860. Mr. Muntz, in asking the House to enter upon the arduous task of reconstructing the income tax, makes no mention of these facts. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in urging the inconvenience of adopting, under present circumstance, the pledge contained in the motion, adverted particularly to the circumstance that Mr. Muntz had proposed no distinct substitute. The proposal in the motion is impracticable. It is impossible to classify all incomes into two classes. The ingenuity of man would fail to determine where fixed incomes terminated and precarious incomes commenced. Under existing circumstances, the present was not a favourable moment for taking up an abstract proposition, and he would therefore move the previous question.

Mr. LAING would oppose the motion on the ground that abstract motions ought not to be entertained as regards matters of taxation.

Still he must not be held as entertaining the opinion that the present mode of imposing the income tax is free from objection. He was in favour of making the tax permanent at a reduced rate, say about five per cent. as the maximum.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS was anxious to bring under the notice of the Government the hardship imposed upon industrious families whose incomes amounted to £100.

Mr. SPOONER defended the present system, remarking that if the owner of landed property enjoyed some special advantages, he was also subjected to special burdens.

After a few words from Mr. Mackie, Mr. J. M'Gregor, and Sir H. Willoughby,

Mr. MUNZT replied, and the House divided—For the resolution, 63; against, 194—131.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

The LORD-ADVOCATE obtained leave to introduce two bills, the one to make further provision for Parochial Schools in Scotland, and the other to make provision for Education within Burghs in Scotland. With regard to the first measure, the existing test, as regards conformity to the Established Church on the part of the schoolmasters, would be abolished. The Lord-Advocate proceeded to explain other details connected with the trial of offences, appointment of inspectors, increase of salary, and improved accommodation. With regard to

the second measure, the basis of it is to confer power upon town councils to raise rates for the maintenance of such schools as may be established. He would submit another and a general scheme should the smaller measures meet with the support of Parliament.

In the discussion to which the motion gave rise, Mr. Baxter, Mr. Black, and other Scotch Members took part, expressing approval of the measure.

LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING.

Mr. V. SCULLY denounced, to the great amusement of the House, with much warmth, the habitual, not to say systematic, exclusion of Irish members from committees and other public positions calculated to give them their due weight in the House, and enable them to protect the local interests of Ireland.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER denied all intention, on the part of the Government, to disparage the Irish representatives, and, on the present question, proposed to enlarge the select committee by the addition of two members from the sister island.

Mr. DISRAELI deprecated the revival of the old and long-extinguished feuds between different sections of the United Kingdom.

Sir FRANCIS BARING assured the Government that the committee, as proposed, would give no satisfaction.

Lord PALMERSTON thought the functions of the committee had been misinterpreted.

The object was not to express opinions, but to inquire into the peculiar circumstances of certain towns, and to report facts, so that the House may be able to form opinions.

Mr. HORSFALL expressed dissatisfaction at the constitution of the proposed committee, and moved the postponement of the debate for a week.

The motion for adjournment was negatived by 108 to 67.

The Committee, as proposed by the Government, was then agreed to.

The other business was disposed of, and at twelve o'clock the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OATH OF ABJURATION BILL.

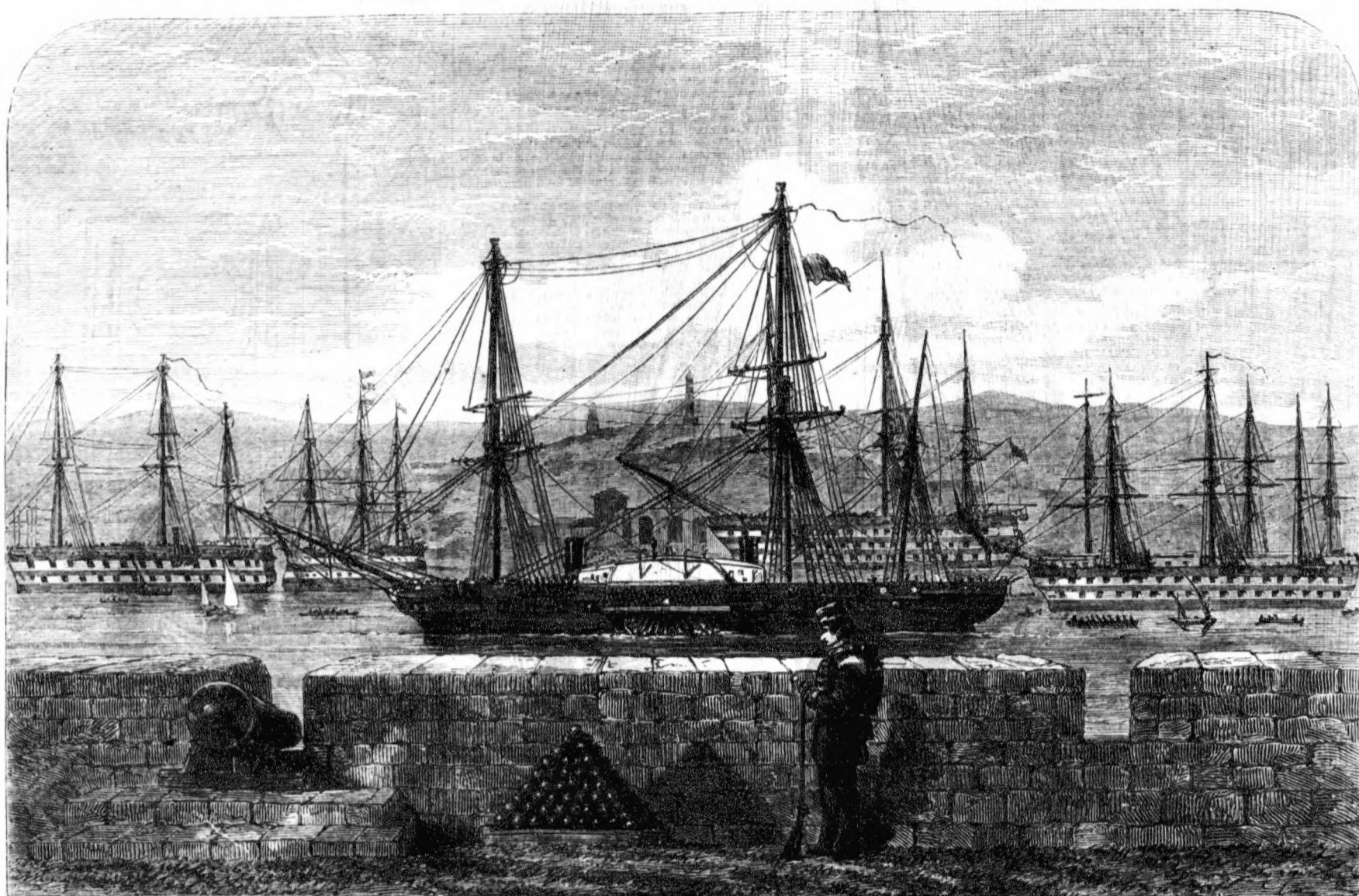
Mr. M. GIBSON moved the second reading of the bill for abolishing the oath of abjuration and the assurance which accompanied it. The measure, he said, was practically the same as that introduced in a previous session by Lord Lyndhurst in the House of Peers, and was simply designed to efface from the statute book a formula whose purpose had become obsolete, whose history was far from creditable, and which had, in point of fact, to a great extent fallen into desuetude.

Sir F. THREIGER moved as an amendment, that the bill should be read a second time that day six months. Replying to the argument that the oath of abjuration had become obsolete by the extinction of the Stuart race, he contended that the formula in question constituted the only recognition of the great principle of the Protestant succession. If obliterated from the code, the sole guarantee for the maintenance of the existing dynasty would be surrendered.

The LORD-ADVOCATE urged that neither by prescribing an oath nor forbidding an exclusion, was the Christian character of the Legislature to be preserved. That must depend entirely upon the Christianity of the constituencies by whom the legislators were elected, or of the subjects for whom they were to frame laws.

Mr. NAPIER, in supporting the amendment, urged that the unavoidable result of the present bill would be to leave both the Protestant succession and the Christian religion open questions. So long as England remained a Christian state it was essential to maintain Christianity as the distinctive characteristic of the legislature which ruled the state.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed that there were two points upon which the House agreed; first, that it was no longer necessary to abjure allegiance to the Pretender; secondly, that the part of the oath of abjuration which secured the Protestant succession to the throne should be retained, and to which Mr. Gibson did not object. The Protestant succession was secured by act of Parliament; but still he agreed that it would be right, in repealing the present oath, to insert words in the oath of allegiance or that of supremacy, or in a separate oath, binding persons admitted to high offices or to Parliament to recognise that succession; and he would propose in the committee words similar to those which he had introduced in his bill of 1854. Then he came to the real point in dispute, whether or not Jews should be admitted to offices of State and to seats in Parliament. Mr. Napier thought that this would make Christianity an open question. But the admission of Jews to Parliament would not make the question more open than now; it only recognised the principle that political functions ought not to depend upon religious faith. Heretofore, not only Jews but Dissenters were excluded; but the exclusion of Dissenters and Roman Catholics was done away with, and there was no ground for maintaining it against Jews. He held, that if a man was to be allowed the right of private judgment, that House was not to decide whether that judgment was right or wrong as a reason for admitting or excluding him. But it was said that the Christian character of that House would be taken away



AGAMEMNON.

HANNIBAL.

CURACOA.

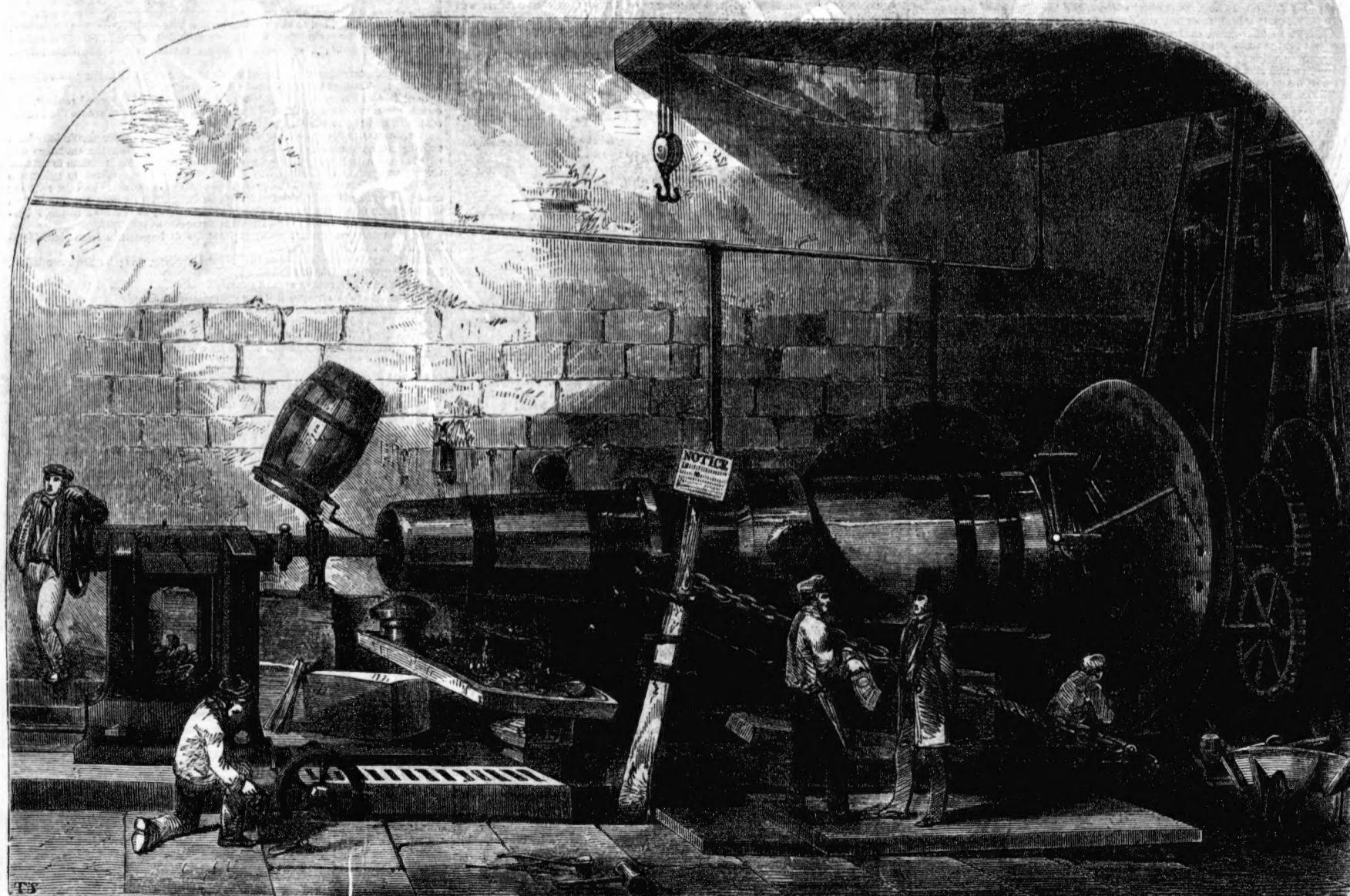
TERRIBLE.

ROYAL ALBERT.

ST. JEAN D'ACEE.

PRINCESS ROYAL.

THE BLACK SEA FLEET IN MALTA HARBOUR.



THE MONSTER WROUGHT-IRON GUN, FORGED AT THE MERSEY IRON WORKS, LIVERPOOL.



COUNT ORLOFF AFFIXING HIS SIGNATURE TO THE TREATY OF PEACE, AT PARIS, MARCH 30, 1856.

THE BLACK SEA FLEET IN MALTA HARBOUR.

MALTA HARBOUR is one of the most commodious and convenient in the Mediterranean, and it was by excellent policy that we gained that island for ourselves after the last great war. It is not, indeed, a rich island, being stony and dry, and importing even the soil for its gardens—with their orange and almond trees—from Sicily. But its port of Valetta is one of the best fortified places in the world; and it serves as a rendezvous for the Mediterranean Fleet. There are abundance of stores there, an excellent victualling yard and dockyard, facilities for repairs and refitment, depots of coal; in short, the place is a treasure in a naval point of view, and during this war has proved of much service to us.

The vessels before the reader in our engraving, are lying in the Main Grand Harbour. There is a Quarantine Harbour also, especially devoted, if need be, to vessels suffering from sickness. As you enter the Grand Harbour forts lie on each side of you, and to the right the town of Valetta, a crowded white-looking town, on hilly ground, lined along its borders by the blue waves of the harbour. Sailing in, the scene opens on both sides—churches, houses, forts, browned by time and sun, seem to thicken about you; stately men-of-war lie in the centre; the quays are lined by the light craft of the Mediterranean. You pass on the left a beautiful building with long colonnades, overlooking Bighi Bay, the Naval Hospital. On your left, as you go up, also is Dockyard Creek, and the opposite town to Valetta, which is called Burmola. You may fancy that, on a fine summer day, when the fleet is in harbour, and the gay Maltese shore-boats are gliding about the water, and the bells are jingling, and the natives, in bright light attire, are sunning themselves on the wharves, Malta affords a beautiful southern picture.

There are always, of course, troops at Malta, and these, with the regular English colony of merchants, officials, travellers, and naval men, constitute the society of the place. The navy play, as may be supposed, a leading part in the island. The admiral of the station has a regular establishment on shore, and (in these luxurious days) our captains bring their wives and children out there, and set up on shore, too. There are *cafés*, billiard-rooms, hotels, livery-stables, and all that contribute to make life pleasant to idle people; and some “youngsters” are said early to rush into dissipation and debt. Be that as it may, a man—

“Who likes to see the sun rise every day”—

as Byron says, will long remember a stay at Malta. By a touch of fancy, the reader may see boats gliding from the ships before him with officers bound for a ride to Città Vecchia, or, as the twilight deepens, landing to go to the opera. And now that there is the Crimean experience to talk about, and the Crimean banishment to make up for, we have little doubt that the island is a merrier place than ever.

The sketch from which our engraving is taken, was received from our artist about the middle of the past month. The ships represented in the engraving are the following:—*Hannibal*, 91, screw, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K.C.B.; *Agamemnon*, 91, screw, Capt. Stopford; *Princess Royal*, 91, screw, Captain Jones, C.B.; *St. Jean d'Arc*, 101, screw, Captain King, C.B.; *Royal Albert*, 121, screw, Captain Mends, C.B., late flag-ship of Sir Edmund Lyons; *Terrible*, 21, paddle steam frigate; and *Curaçoa*, 31, Captain Edgell—all refitting and getting ready for sea. In dock was the *Tribune*, 31; and in Dockyard Creek, the *Hibernia*, 104, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir Montagu Stopford, K.C.B.; *Miranda*, 13; *Odin*, 16; *Highflyer*, 31; *Gladiator*, 6; *Medusa*, 6; *Medina*, surveying vessel, 6; *Beagle*, 4, gun-boat; and *Shearwater*, tender. The whole squadron, at the date of our artist's letter, was being pushed forward as fast as possible, with a view to rendezvous at Beira forthwith.

THE LARGE WROUGHT-IRON GUN.

In the midst of our multifarious preparations for war, in the construction of wrought-iron guns, floating batteries, new and improved mortars, and warlike implements of every description—indeed, in the midst of preparations on a scale and magnitude unprecedented, perhaps, in history—the news of peace have fallen apparently like oil on troubled waters. “The piping times of peace,” are once more to take the place of “the pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war”; but still the preparations made and the experiments now so well tested, will, it is hoped, not be useless—tending, as they must, to place England, in the event of war again breaking out (in whatever quarter or period) in a position far more effective for defensive operations than characterised the opening of the contest just terminated. Not the least important of the discoveries referred to, will no doubt be found to be the wrought-iron guns, of one of which we this week supply our readers with an illustration.

The application of wrought or malleable iron to the construction of pieces of ordnance, has long been held matter of debate among practical as well as among scientific men; the difficulties to be overcome have been held to be so great, in so welding a sufficient quantity of iron into one perfectly homogeneous mass as would insure its solidity without in any degree impairing its tenacity. The value of soft and tough iron as applicable to the purposes of warlike implements, has been long understood and practically carried out in the manufacture of small arms; and the problem which remained to be solved was the possibility of applying the same material to the construction of the heaviest ordnance which had been so successfully employed in the formation of musketry. This is a question which has long occupied the minds of those who devote attention to the scientific prosecution of the varied adaptability of iron; and to the banks of the Mersey, and to the skill and enterprise of the men of Liverpool, belong the honour of having first successfully attempted the achievement of this new application of wrought-iron. So long ago as 1845, the subject was seriously taken up by Messrs. Horsfall, and in that year they forged at their establishment, the Mersey Steel and Iron Works, a mass of iron for the purpose of being fashioned into a gun of vast magnitude and calibre for the United States steam-frigate *Princeton*. The length of this gun was thirteen feet from breech to muzzle; its length of bore was twelve feet, by a diameter of twelve inches; and it was capable of propelling a ball of 219 lbs. weight. The weight of the mass when taken from the forge, before boring and turning, was 11 tons 2½ cwt.; when finished, the gun weighed 7 tons 17½ cwt. The forging of this enormous mass was reckoned a feat of great importance at the time, and gave rise to much speculation. Its appearance was in all respects most satisfactory; still the practical test was that by which its excellence alone could be proved, and that was applied without loss of time and with complete success.

The Mersey Steel and Iron Works, at that time much less extensive and much less complete in their manifold appliances than they are now, were not then furnished with the apparatus necessary for boring and turning so gigantic an implement, yet one requiring so delicately true an adjustment in all its particulars, as the gun in question; and it was, therefore, transferred to the engineering works of Messrs. Fawcett, Preston and Co., of Liverpool, by whom it was bored, turned, and fitted. The prognostications as to the excellence of the forging were realised in every particular. The vast mass was found to be perfectly solid, completely homogeneous, and fibrous throughout. The toughness and elasticity of the boring and turning shavings bearing ample testimony to those qualities. So far, all had gone on most satisfactorily, and the only further proof wanted was the ultimate one of its power and safety as the means of impelling the heavy projectiles which it was intended to throw. The gun was proved, and found to be sound and true, and was delivered over to the government of the United States, and it is now in Brooklyn Navy-yard, at New York. So far, the question of wrought-iron ordnance of large calibre seemed to have been most successfully answered; and for nearly ten years the matter was not again mooted, unless indeed as a matter of curious speculation among scientific or practical metallurgists. The requirements of the late war, however, once more roused men's attention to the subject, and gave rise to conflicting opinions as to the practicability of forging large pieces of ordnance. The ingenuity of Mr. Nasmyth, of Manchester, was applied to the subject; and, after protracted labours, his effort proved a failure. He accordingly abandoned the undertaking, and declared that the project involved an impossibility.

Satisfied from the entire success of their first experiment, that the conclusion arrived at by Mr. Nasmyth was erroneous, the Messrs. Horsfall resolved again to show that wrought-iron may be advantageously applied to the construction of ordnance of the largest calibre; and in concurrence with the advice of Mr. Clay, the manager of their works, they intimated

their intention of forging and finishing a gun much larger than the one they first made. The resolution once adopted, steps were immediately taken to proceed with the work, which is now far advanced towards completion. Some time ago, the forging of the huge fabric was finished, when it presented to the eye the appearance of a vast solid lump of iron, slightly conical in form, fifteen feet long, two feet ten inches in diameter at the thick end, and tapering to about twenty-two or twenty-three inches at the small or muzzle end. The weight of the mass was found to be twenty-four tons seven hundredweights; and, in the opinion of all who saw it, it was held to be a most successful forging, everything giving indication that it was solid throughout, perfectly sound, and without the slightest appearance of crystallisation in any place or of any kind.

To ensure this desirable result, the utmost care was bestowed upon it, and everything which science could suggest, was sedulously applied. The care of the forging was entrusted to one man, and superintended with the utmost diligence by Mr. Clay and the Messrs. Horstall. It occupied seven successive weeks, day and night; but was regularly, during the whole of that time, allowed to cool from Saturday night to Monday morning. The mass itself was carefully composed of bars laid longitudinally, and thoroughly welded together under the crushing blows of the large-tilt hammer, till they were incorporated into one solid fibrous mass. It was then augmented in bulk by being hooped with slabs of tough iron, laid on transversely, diagonally, and longitudinally, carefully and thoroughly welded on at a proper temperature, and fully incorporated by repeated blows of the huge tilt-hammer, so as to produce a solid and homogeneous body, having a tough fibrous texture, the fibre running in every possible direction. Great care was taken during the whole course of formation to prevent the mass from receiving blows of the hammer, or percussion from any other cause, while it was cold or in a state of semi-heat, to avoid the disintegration known to be produced in iron which has been hammered when cold.

The fullest evidence of perfect success in forging, however, has been derived from the process of boring. This has been effected to the full extent of the intended length of the tube, viz., thirteen and a half feet, with drill of eleven inches in diameter. In the whole course of this extensive boring, the metal has proved all that the most sanguine expectations could have anticipated. Not the slightest indication of crystallisation or brittleness, of fault or looseness of texture, has been manifested in the boring: the drill, like the turning tool, having taken off a continuous, tenacious, and elastic shaving, throughout the whole length of the boring.

Comparatively little remains to be done ere this masterpiece of ordnance and triumph of applied science, will be brought to a completion. The chief difficulties have now been overcome. The metal has been proved to have been successfully prepared, and nothing but matters of detail are in the way between its present condition and that of ultimate finish. The bore requires to be enlarged from eleven inches to thirteen inches in diameter; the external surface has to be smoothed, equalised, and polished; the touch or vent-hole has to be drilled; and the trunnions to be fitted on, which they will be by means of a collar fastened on to the body of the gun. These are comparatively small matters; yet they are in reality processes of great magnitude, and only sink into littleness by comparison with what has already been encountered and overcome. They will occupy, it is considered, about four weeks in execution; and when completed, the gun, it is estimated, will weigh about fifteen tons and a half. It will have a perfectly smooth, cylindrical bore of thirteen inches in diameter; thus being capable of receiving an iron spherical ball of 302lbs. in weight, which with a charge of 90lbs. of powder, it is expected it will be able to project to a distance of fully five miles. When finished, it is intended to test this unique piece of artillery at Waterloo, previous to despatching it to Woolwich, Messrs. Horsfall having, in the most patriotic manner, resolved on presenting it to the Government. It has already awakened the most lively interest among all classes of the community at home and abroad. The various stages of the forging were anxiously inquired into by scientific men of all countries: and even the Pasha of Egypt very recently caused minute information to be collected respecting it and transmitted to him. Of the ultimate success of the experiment, there seems not the slightest reason to entertain any doubt, so that the prestige acquired by the Mersey Iron Works will be of an unprecedented character.

The sketch from which our illustration has been taken was made a week or two since. More recently the gun has been brought to a state of completion, with the exception of the breeching loop and trunnions. The weight of these will reach two tons and a-half. It is expected that in about a week's time the gun will be in a perfectly complete state.

THE PEACE CONFERENCES.

THE state of Italy has, it seems, been brought before the Plenipotentiaries. The Emperor having said, “What can one do for Italy?” Count Cavour has answered by a memorial, which states the principal grievances of Italy in general, as well as of the individual States. The Milanese and Venetian territories, the Papal States, the kingdom of Naples, all suffer from different forms of the same malady. Despotic government and priestly interference ruin and taint every thing from the Alps to Sicily. Count Cavour gives prominence to the deplorable condition of the Papal territories.

Important despatches are stated to have arrived from Constantinople which may affect the deliberations of the Congress touching the final settlement of the Principalities question.

Count Orloff has, it is said, received communications from St. Petersburg informing him that his presence is necessary there, in order to assist at a grand diplomatic council which is to take place at the end of the month. M. de Titoff will succeed him at Paris.

Lord Clarendon is expected to return to England next week, as by that time it is probable that the affairs which require his presence at the Congress will have been despatched.

Although the principal Plenipotentiaries may quit Paris, it is expected that the Congress will sit for some time to come, each Power being represented by its second Plenipotentiary, who, in most cases, is its resident Minister.

Count Buol has received instructions to remain at Paris, in order to take part in the deliberations upon such details of execution as yet remain to be settled.

SIGNING THE TREATY OF PEACE.

THE engraving on page 249 represents Count Orloff signing the Treaty of Peace with the pen which was pulled from a wing of the imperial eagle in the Jardin des Plantes. The statement that it was ornamented with precious stones is contradicted. Immediately after the signature, the pen was, it seems, attached to a sheet of pasteboard, and surrounded by the seals of each of the Powers represented at the Congress, and by the signatures of the Plenipotentiaries. M. Feuillet de Conches, the *chef du bureau* of the protocols, wrote underneath as follows:—“I certify that this pen was pulled by me from the imperial eagle of the Jardin des Plantes, and that it is the pen which was used for the signature of the treaty of peace of March, 1856.” The pasteboard was afterwards framed and glazed, to be presented to the Empress.

According to current report, this is not the first time Count Orloff has had the honour of signing a treaty of peace. On the 30th of March, 1814, (exactly 42 years ago) being then Colonel Orloff, aide-de-camp to the Emperor Alexander, he affixed the first signature to the Treaty of Paris.

Much stress having been laid by the English and French Plenipotentiaries upon the time necessary to remove the immense material of the war from the Crimea and Turkey, Count Orloff is stated to have remarked with a smile, “The Allies succeeded in carrying their material to the spot with ease and rapidity, and there is reason to believe that they can find the same resources for taking it back.”

EVACUATION OF THE CRIMEA.—The evacuation of the Crimea appears to have been fairly commenced. The Paris papers contain accounts from that peninsula to the 22nd. The French Intendance had chartered a number of merchant vessels for the conveyance of stores from that country, and a number of articles which were to be first shipped had already been sent to Kamiesch.

THE SOUND DUES.—It is believed at Berlin that at a Cabinet Council held about the middle of last month, the English Government decided on rejecting the proposition for capitalising the Sound Dues, on the terms offered by the Danish Government. England will, however, make a proposal of her own,

SPLENDID PRESENTATION ENGRAVING TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

The PROPRIETORS OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES beg to announce to their Subscribers that it is their intention to issue with the number for May 24th, 1856, her Majesty's Birthday, instead of on May 3rd, as previously announced, a beautifully engraved

LIFE SIZE

PORTRAIT OF

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Enclosed in a magnificent Ornamental Border of appropriate design.

This Engraving, which has been several months in preparation, has been executed from a drawing made especially for the purpose, and may claim to rank with the most successful portraits of her Majesty heretofore published.

No expense has been spared to render this work of art worthy of its illustrious subject, and it is believed that this, in conjunction with the unusual scale on which it has been produced, will fairly entitle it to be considered unique.

The size of the paper on which the engraving will be printed is 25 inches by 33. None but the finest impressions will be permitted to leave the office, and only regular purchasers of the paper will be supplied with them.

The price of the number of the “ILLUSTRATED TIMES,” together with this elaborate Engraving, will be Fourpence. The nominal sum charged for the Engraving will be merely the cost of the paper on which it is printed. It will not be compulsory on Purchasers of the newspaper to buy the Engraving, but no copies of the Engraving will be sold distinct from the newspaper upon any consideration whatever.

Specimen impressions will be delivered to the trade in a few days.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A CONSTANT reader is thanked. We shall preserve his communication till next year, to accompany an illustration of the ceremony he describes.

Our Sherborne subscriber is also thanked, but we were unable to find room for the subject suggested. We hope, however, that he and other subscribers will continue to give us timely notice of coming local events of importance.

A Lancashire subscriber, who can't see a joke, writes to throw discredit on our correspondent's account of Lifting at Easter in the neighbourhood of Manchester. If our correspondent's narrative was not so true as the Lancashire subscriber thinks it ought to have been, it was, nevertheless, very funny.

We cannot answer letters from correspondents on matters merely of interest to themselves, in this part of our paper. We shall be happy to reply to them through the post if a stamped envelope accompanies their communication.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1856.

CRIMEAN LESSONS.

A MAN who should undertake to settle all the controversies arising out of the evidence taken by the Board sitting at Chelsea Hospital, would find his hands full enough. Lord LUCAN delivered an elaborate address on Monday last, in which he accused the Commissioners, TULLOCH and M'NEILL, of error in the numbers of horses lost—of stating the facts about transport horses unfairly—of confounding, in their Report, hutting for horses with hutting for men. He accused FIDLER of feeding the baggage animals first. He further attributed all the disasters to “the circumstances in which we were placed, and orders to which we owed submission.” The last clause is significant, and would seem to point to Lord RAGLAN. We have not yet heard the defence of Lord RAGLAN's friends, but we have already seen several efforts to throw all the blame on him possible—the policy being obvious.

Now, the public, we fancy, will not take the trouble to settle minutely between the disputants; but one thing the public will do—and we heartily commend the task to it—the public will observe in what points all the squabblers agree, and will be edified by their relations on all sides. This is the use of such disputes. With this motive men read controversies; they know that the whole truth cannot be on one side, but that there must be some truth on each; so they strike the balance, and something that may be relied on is the result, at all events. We do not form our opinion of Sir ROBERT WALPOLE from his son HORACE, neither do we take it from Lord BOLINGBROKE; but, after studying both accounts, we form a fairer judgment than either. Even libels have their value in this kind of way; and hence the importance of those political satires which abound in English literature.

With regard, therefore, to the present inquiry, we propose to avail ourselves of the evidence—not to raise a controversy, but to get at general results. The address of Lord LUCAN on the 7th may furnish a first text.

In the first place, what is the leading fact about the losses of our cavalry? The Heavy Brigade consisted, on 1st October, of 1,055 horses; the Light Brigade, of 1,161—total, 2,216. There died from disease: Heavy Brigade, 493; Light Brigade, 439—total, 932. These figures Sir GEORGE BERKELEY stated as the correct ones, and Lord LUCAN did not correct him. But—thanks to Lord LUCAN'S hostility to TULLOCH and M'NEILL—he absolutely showed the percentage of loss to be greater than they made it out! The Heavy Brigade lost, says his Lordship, more than 50 per cent. “I only wish to show that the numbers of the Commissioners are wrong.” The public is much obliged to you.

This being, so far, an admitted fact, the reader naturally wishes to know the “why” of the loss. In a pecuniary point of view it is no joke, a troop-horse costing £75.

LORD LUCAN, of course, thinks the cavalry not at all to blame. Who ever thinks himself in the wrong? He proceeds, by way of exculpating himself, to throw blame elsewhere, and so helps us to understand some deficiencies, which being settled, we return to his own in due time; so that all the controversy of individuals helps the public, whether it helps themselves or not. The weather soon showed what the army had to expect, and it became a question—How hot the horses? And here we learn, *in limine*, that “the construction of stabling of that sort was perfectly novel to me.” In the British army, then, we are left to infer, a theory exists that comfortable stables, fit for all weather, are promiscuously scattered over the

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

THE PRINCE REGENT OF BADEN's marriage with the daughter of the Prince of Prussia is to be celebrated in June.

THE NEW LEVY IN POLAND FOR THE RUSSIAN ARMY was stopped at the last moment.

122,000 FRENCH SOLDIERS are said to be in the Crimea, and upwards of 20,000 at Constantinople.

THE CAFES CHANTANTS in Paris have received orders to suppress the Anti-Russian songs that they have lately been in the habit of giving.

THE NAVAL REVIEW to be held by her Majesty at Spithead is postponed to Wednesday, April 23.

THE CHARIVARI, which ceased to publish caricatures of Russia some time before peace was signed, has now begun to familiarise the Parisian public mind with a war with Madagascar.

THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST was celebrated last week, when the contributions amounted to £5,000.

THE MARQUIS OF DALHOUSIE is daily expected to arrive at Marseilles.

MR. SMITH O'BRIEN is at present travelling in Greece.

THE SPRING HERRING FISHERY is proceeding favourably on the Norfolk coast.

A SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKE has been felt in the island of Mitylene, by which several houses were more or less injured.

FOUR RUSSIAN OFFICERS, two Russian ladies, and a child, who have been residing as prisoners at Bourges, passed through Lyons a few days ago, and took the railway to Marseilles en route to Odessa.

THE NORWICH MUSICAL FESTIVAL is to take place in the autumn of 1857.

THE WRECKS OF VESSELS during the month of March were 145; in January the number was 265, and in February 174; making a total in the past three months of 584.

THE MINO OF BARCELONA, an iron screw steamship, while off Tarras, on the 28th ult., came into collision with the Minden, a British transport, and sank with eighty-eight persons on board.

MR. RIDLER, for twenty years manager of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Bank, died unexpectedly one morning last week, that it was thought necessary to hold a coroner's inquest, which was adjourned for further evidence.

HENRY GARRATT, one of the delinquents who robbed the Bank of Victoria of above £14,000, has been tried in the supreme court, Melbourne, and sentenced to work on the roads for ten years.

A BOILER EXPLODED at Portsmouth Dockyard last Saturday, causing the death of three men and injuring eleven others.

RUSSIA will send an Ambassador to Turin as soon as the ratifications of the peace are exchanged.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA will be crowned at Moscow towards the end of August.

MR. CHISHOLM ANSTY has arrived at Hong Kong, and has been sworn in as the Queen's Attorney-General for the colony.

THE "UNIVERS" asserts that the question of the Holy Places, the first apparent cause of the war, has not been touched by the Conferences, but will be amicably settled between France and Turkey.

THE GREEKS are largely cultivating land in and about Jerusalem, planting olives and mulberry trees, and building silk mills.

THE PATRIOTIC FUNDS SUBSCRIPTIONS now amount to upwards of £1,400,000.

28,000 OUT OF 31,000 MEN who now constitute the National Guard of Paris, have signed an address of congratulation to the Emperor on the birth of the Imperial Prince.

DR. R. D. THOMSON has been elected to the Examinership in Chemistry (in Arts) in the London University, vacated by Professor Graham on his appointment to the Mastership of the Mint.

THE CZAR will, it is rumoured, visit Paris and London in the month of June.

THE AUSTRIAN AND RUSSIAN OFFICERS charged with the rectification of the frontier of Moldavia, are at present in Paris, awaiting the orders of the Congress to set out on their mission.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THIS being the week during which the artists send their pictures to the Royal Academy, you may imagine that in my endeavours to glean the earliest information for you, I have had rather a busy time of it. Indeed, when I come for my weekly salary, you must be prepared to earn a small bill for cab-hire, for some of the artists have quite an actor-like aversion to living near get-at-able places, and many and lengthy have been my pilgrimages to their studios. It strikes me that, both numerically and in point of merit, there will be an excellent exhibition this year.

A talented picture-framer (who also lets out vans for the conveyance of paintings to the Academy), with whom I have business relations, assures me that all the best artists are sending several specimens, and as to merit, those that I have seen are certainly the *chefs d'œuvre* of their respective painters. To begin, then, with a time-honoured name, Clarkson Stanfield, far away the first artist in his own peculiar line, contributes two pictures, the first a semi-maritime landscape—of course excellent; the second, one of the most striking and poetical pictures he has ever painted. He calls it simply "Abandoned," and the subject is an old, tempest-tossed, worm-eaten, barnacle-covered hull of a vessel, tossing on a wild waste of waters, solitary and forsaken. The sensation caused by a lengthened study of this picture is that of utter desolation; whatever may have been the former fortunes or misfortunes of the ship, whether she were wrecked and her crew lost, or whatever ill may have befallen her, the spectator can but guess. No vestige of her former fate remains; she may have been driven twice round the globe before she is brought under our notice, but there she lies, a pictureque ruin. Few painters but Stanfield—perhaps no other English artist—would have had the boldness to attempt to portray this subject, for there is no relief for the eye, no drowning seamen or adventurous life-boat, to arouse the interest; every faculty must be concentrated on the helpless, abandoned old hull.

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M. KOSSUTH has received an invitation to deliver two lectures on political subjects at Leeds, and accepted the invitation.

MR. BUCHANAN, late American ambassador at London, quitted the Hague on the 3rd for New York.

ABBOFORD is now open daily to visitors, and will be so during the whole season.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE is entertained every day in her chamber by a concert of the choicest description.

THE AMOUNT ISSUED last year "on account of the expenses of Lord John Russell's special mission to Vienna," was £2,332 16s. 4d.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT, SAID PACHA, has gone up to Cairo to take possession of a palace on the Nile he has just bought from one of his nephews.

THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION EDIFICE AT PARIS is preparing for a fête in May, when it is understood a further distribution of medals will take place.

PROFESSOR OWEN has, it is understood, been recommended by the trustees of the British Museum to the Government for the post of chief of the natural history department in that institution.

THE RECTORY OF ST. GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, vacant by the elevation of the Hon. and Rev. H. M. Villiers to the see of Carlisle, has been given to the Rev. E. Bayley, vicar of Woburn, Beds.

LONGFELLOW'S "SONG OF HIAWATHA" has already sold in America to the extent of thirty thousand copies.

MR. KROGH, the Attorney-General for Ireland, has accepted the judgeship, vacant by the death of Justice Torrens, and Mr. Fitzgerald, the Solicitor-General for the Sister Island, will succeed to the Attorney-Generalship.

MR. HAWTHORNE, author of the "Scarlet Letter," being a guest at the banquet given at the Mansion House on Monday evening, said he felt the ties between England and America were such as could never be broken.

LY NORD, by an arrêté of the French Minister of the Interior, dated April 6, is allowed to enter France.

A DUEL arising out of a dispute about a matter of fact, took place last week at St. Germain between two officers of the Guards, in which one of them was run through the body and killed on the spot.

THE BISHOP OF VERSAILLES has refused the rites of sepulture to the body of the officer of the Guards killed at St. Germain.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY are about to form a Museum of Naval Architecture, exhibiting the progress of that art from an early period to the present day.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, on Count Orloff's introduction to him, asked if he "brought peace?" which elicited the courteous reply, "Sire, I come to ask it!"

from its size. Of the other excellent picture, I can at present only say that it is called "Autumn Leaves," and that there are four youthful female figures introduced. I had neither time nor (after filling my senses with the first) inclination to inspect it.

Mr. Solomon, unquestionably one of the most delightful costume-painters we have, has this year two charming pictures. One, as yet unchristened, represents a lovely blonde girl in bridal costume, attended by a sombre-clad milliner, who, with half-interested, half-sad looks, is watching and assisting in the progress of her toilette. The bride is catching the attention of her humble companion by a miniature bracelet on her arm; and the contrast between the condition, looks, and garb of the two girls, is admirably given. The elaborate execution of the bride's dress is perfect. The other picture, and I scarcely know which of the two to prefer, represents a laughing *soubrette*, telling fortunes on cards to two sisters, one a blonde, the other a brunette, and evidently more to the satisfaction of the former than the latter. Mr. Solomon here again has carried out his love for contrast in the complexion and demeanour of the two girls. Mr. C. M. Ward has a large picture, an incident in the life of Marie Antoinette; but the painting on which he is now engaged for the Queen, "The Installation of the Emperor Napoleon as a Knight of the Garter," will not be ready in time for the Exhibition. Mr. Sant is in a similar position with his portrait of her Majesty. Mr. David Roberts contributes two Eastern subjects; and Mr. Frith has a picture which he calls "A Child's Birthday," representing a little girl about three years old surrounded by other children and friends in the act of drinking her health; one of the most perfect bits of natural painting that can be conceived. I have not had an opportunity of inspecting Mr. Elmore's pictures; but I hear they will be among the "lions" of the Academy.

Mr. Murray's recently-published translation of the Count de Montalembert's latest work, "De l'Avenir Politique de l'Angleterre," has given rise to a very pretty paper war between two literary celebrities; which commenced in this way: Mr. Abraham Hayward, whilom editor of the "Morning Chronicle," author of various articles in the "Quarterly Review" (the "Art of Dining" among the number), and of the best English translation of Goethe's "Faust," wrote to the editor of the "Times," forwarding a letter from the Count de Montalembert, in which the latter stated that he could not acknowledge the translation "as a true and faithful reproduction of his essay;" that there was "hardly a page in which the meaning was not weakened by useless expletives, or altered by unaccountable suppressions, or misrepresented by downright errors." The next day's "Times" contained a short letter from a certain "H. B.," who, acknowledging the translation ("afterwards overlooked by another and more experienced eye"), denied any intentional error, and desired that any erroneous passages should be pointed out. This Mr. Hayward is perfectly ready to do, and does accordingly in a letter published the following day, quoting at full length various garbled passages, stating that "H. B." was a complete myth to him, and that all his correspondence on the subject of the translation had been with "an eminent literary character, who has nothing in common with H. B." beyond a natural genius for caricaturing what he intends to portray." This letter has the desired effect, and produces a rejoinder from the "eminent literary character" aforesaid, the old lion of the "Quarterly," John Wilson Croker, who, with a little of his old acerbity, but with no remnant of his ancient fire, writes a wold-be-savage, but really pointless, letter upholding the translation, but has all his weak sophistries demolished in a further reply from Mr. Hayward, to which he has since written a weak rejoinder. So the matter stands. It is evident the translation is a bad one, executed in a faulty slip-slop manner. The original author is justly aggrieved, and all Mr. Croker's special pleading or idle blustering will not alter the general opinion of the public.

The Bishop of Bangor, whose recent ridiculous quarrel with certain of his clergy has drawn upon him public attention, has also addressed a couple of letters to the newspapers, which, for defective grammar, vulgar style, and a judicious mixture of the first and third persons, are probably equal to any specimens which have come before the observation of the Civil Service Examiners; and that is saying not a little.

Operatic prospects are becoming more defined. The Lyceum opens on Tuesday, with the late Royal Italian Opera Company in the "Trovatore." Her Majesty's Theatre will open about the middle of May. The "Prophète" is said to be the first opera that will be given, with Viardot as Fides and Signor Salviani as John of Leyden. The "Corsaire," which has created a tremendous sensation in Paris, will be the first *ballet* produced, with Rosatias as the heroine. An engagement with Mr. Sims Reeves is spoken of as pending.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THERE is scarcely any theatrical news. The English Opera Company at Drury Lane have been playing the "Trovatore," the "Bohemian Girl," and the "Daughter of the Regiment," with average merit and success. At no other London theatre has there been any change in the performances, except at the Adelphi, where a new melodrama, called "Like and Unlike," delayed from Monday on account of Mr. Wright's illness, was produced on Wednesday night. I was unable to be present, but will send you a full account of it next week.

The new Shakspearian revival at the Princess's will be the "Winter's Tale."

FURTHER FORGEIES BY JOHN SADLER.—On Monday afternoon a London solicitor appeared in the Registry Office, Dublin, with a carpet bag containing a number of deeds, in order that it should be ascertained whether they had been registered in accordance with certificates of registry which he produced. The deeds purported to be conveyances of estates sold in the Encumbered Estates Court to John Sadler and the certificates of registry, which were numbered, mentioned books in which the memorials of the deeds were entered. On examination by the Principal of the Registry Office and his assistants, it was found that no such books were in existence, and that all the deeds but one, and the best artists are sending several specimens, and as to merit, those that I have seen are certainly the *chefs d'œuvre* of their respective painters. To begin, then, with a time-honoured name, Clarkson Stanfield, far away the first artist in his own peculiar line, contributes two pictures, the first a semi-maritime landscape—of course excellent; the second, one of the most striking and poetical pictures he has ever painted. He calls it simply "Abandoned," and the subject is an old, tempest-tossed, worm-eaten, barnacle-covered hull of a vessel, tossing on a wild waste of waters, solitary and forsaken. The sensation caused by a lengthened study of this picture is that of utter desolation; whatever may have been the former fortunes or misfortunes of the ship, whether she were wrecked and her crew lost, or whatever ill may have befallen her, the spectator can but guess. No vestige of her former fate remains; she may have been driven twice round the globe before she is brought under our notice, but there she lies, a pictureque ruin. Few painters but Stanfield—perhaps no other English artist—would have had the boldness to attempt to portray this subject, for there is no relief for the eye, no drowning seamen or adventurous life-boat, to arouse the interest; every faculty must be concentrated on the helpless, abandoned old hull.

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Of course the world will be most anxious to hear of Mr. Millais, who, for nearly twelvemonths, has been rusticking in Scotland, and about whose progress in art the most extraordinary stories have been rumoured. Take this, then, from me, your faithful critic: Mr. Millais is about to exhibit five pictures, two of which are good enough to give renown to any other artist in one of these the figures are excellent, and the landscape execrable, and the remaining two are almost perfection. The largest picture of the lot, and which will attract most attention, is called "Peace," and represents a convalescent officer leaning languidly back in his chair, and holding in his hand the open "Times" newspaper, in which the words "Conclusion of Peace" are plainly legible. On his knee sits his fair-haired wife, and on either hand is playing a little daughter—one being deeply engaged with a Noah's Ark, part of the contents of which—a lion, a bear, a cock, and a turkey (Hogarthically symbolical of the four warlike Powers)—are in the mother's lap. The little girl is holding up the dove with the olive branch in its mouth. I have given you a mere description, but beyond this it is almost impossible to convey to you any notion of this wonderful picture, although, during the half-hour I was in the studio, I scarcely removed my eyes from it, so fascinating did I find it. There is an expression in the man's face, to describe which I can find no words—a tender thankfulness that he is not likely again to be called away from his beloved ones; a reflective sorrow for those friends who have been lost during the war; a—. There, I'll stop, if you please; for it was only this afternoon that I saw the picture, and I'm far too full of its beauties to be either intelligible or coherent—for less critical. Wait until the Academy opens, and my ardour cools, then you shall have a thorough professional critique—meanwhile, I can recollect that the lady's dress was beautifully painted, and the plait on her head utterly preposterous

On the evening of a summer Saturday, in that part of the metropolis known as Hyde Park, among those who come to witness the gazing crowd with noble horsemanship, may be observed a man of middle age, somewhat awkward in his saddle, with a singularly sagacious countenance, overhanging brows, and red hair terminating in peculiar curls. All who canter their chargers and palfreys in Rotten Row, are not patricians; and the individual referred to rejoices in a very ordinary name. He is neither a Bigod, a Bohun, nor a Courtenay; but plain Mr. Wilson, of the Treasury, who, a few years since, was a hatter. Of course, we don't consider Mr. Wilson one jot either the better or the worse of having been so; and we have no sympathy with those who are always twisting him with the fact. More to the purpose, indeed, it would be to express regret that one so well qualified by talent, industry, and bent of mind, to do the state good service, should have been compelled by circumstances to pass many years in a position which cannot but have been irksome to a person of his "aspiring vein."

James Wilson, as we learn from "Dad," was born in the year 1803 in the little manufacturing town of Hawick, on the banks of the Teviot. His father, as we learn from authority, which, on the subject, is rather better than "Dad," commenced the hosiery trade there, in a small way, some sixty years since. He was a shrewd, calculating man, with a

keen eye to the "main chance," and, to advance his interests, became a member of the Society of Friends. He took into partnership one of the eccentric sect which he had joined, and prospered in business, as Quakers, by hook or by crook, generally contrive to do.

Quaker Wilson indulged in the luxury of a wife, and was blessed with several sons. When these grew up, he conceived the grand idea of embarking them in business as manufacturers of hats. It appears, however, that the rules of the trade in Hawick were such, that they could not begin business without serving a regular apprenticeship. The old worthy was far too knowing and long-headed to be baffled in his grand project. He got hold of a man who was qualified for the trade, gave him a small share, and placed two of his sons in the business as apprentices. This speculation, like many others equally grand, broke down; and James Wilson came to try his fortune as a hatter in London.

Soon after this, Mr. Wilson went to Newcastle; but he was there, if we understand aright, unsuccessful in his commercial speculations. In fact, to use an expression of the old chroniclers, "he was not in his right orb." But

"There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough hew them as we may."

and Mr. Wilson was gradually attracted towards that sphere in which he was destined to shine. While furnishing brainless heads with new beavers, Mr. Wilson had contrived to fill his own with information. Most hatters, like barbers, have a turn for politics. Mr. Wilson was no exception to the general rule; and he had the good luck to take the winning side. In 1839, our Hawick hero published a treatise, entitled, "Influence of the Corn-Laws;" in 1840, "Fluctuations of Currency, Commerce, and Manufactures;" in 1841, "The Revenue; or, What should the Chancellor do?" and, in 1843, he established the "Economist." This newspaper won celebrity for Mr. Wilson as its editor, made him a "man of note" with commercial magnates, and at length carried him into Parliament and into office.

It was at the general election of 1847, when the question of Protection was at issue, that Mr. Wilson was returned, on liberal principles, by the borough of Westbury. Creditable, indeed, it was to the people of Westbury, to return a man of intellect like Mr. Wilson, in an age when wealth, however acquired, and titles, however new, are too often the passports to public life. Circumstances favoured his aspirations. Free trade was in danger, and statistical intelligence was the order of the day. He commenced his Parliamentary career by discussing the "commercial distress" that then prevailed; and, though suffering from indisposition, he moved an amendment to Sir Charles Wood's motion for a select committee in a speech replete with knowledge of the subject. He soon after distinguished himself in the debate on Lord George Bentinck's motion, for an inquiry into the state of the Sugar and Coffee Plantations; and, in subsequent discussions, he threw around the new fiscal system a rampart of figures, which its assailants sometimes scaled, but never battered down.

Mr. Wilson's remarkable ability, and the familiarity which he displayed with statistics, marked him out for preferment; and in May, 1848, he was appointed secretary to the Board of Control. That place he continued to occupy till Lord J. Russell's cabinet fell to pieces; and Mr. Wilson, having been, in 1852, again elected as member for Westbury, was, on the formation of the Coalition Ministry, nominated to his present post of financial secretary to the Treasury. In that office, he has been the "right-hand" of two finance ministers, and done for them a good deal of work, which they could hardly have done for themselves. Mr. Wilson is the busy bee who does the work for official drones; and, altogether, putting oratory aside, he is, in the opinion of many intelligent persons, a much



JAMES WILSON, M.P. FOR WESTBURY, SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

abler man than those who are restrained from the monastic cloister, or clutched from the editorial chair, to be dignified with the style of "Right Honourable," and invested with the robes of a Chancellor of the Exchequer.

FASHIONS FOR APRIL:

OUR London milliners are busily preparing for the approaching season, and many exquisite bonnets, too light in texture and too delicate in colour to encounter the bleak winds of March, will make their appearance with the first genial rays of spring sunshine. An assortment of millinery just received from Paris contains several bonnets, remarkable at once for elegance

and novelty of style. One, composed of white crape, has edge finished by six narrow folds of green crape in graduated tints. Over the white portion of the bonnet are disposed rows of narrow black Chantilly lace; and at each side, on the folds of green crape, are fixed several small heads of green marabouts. Another bonnet, made of pink silk interwoven with straw, is trimmed with narrow rows of black velvet and black blonde edging, the inner trimming being small white and pink rosebuds. A very elegant half-mourning bonnet is made of white and grey crape, and the trimming consists of white blonde bouquets of lilac.

At a splendid soirée recently given in Paris by the Marquise de Boissy, all the élite of fashion were assembled. The dresses of the ladies were unusually elegant. The Marquise herself wore a robe of *Gaze de Coton*, with three skirts of the tunie form, each edged with a fall of white blonde, headed by three rows of ruby velvet. The head-dress consisted of flowing ends of ruby velvet, and bouquets of white convolvulus, fixed by Italian pins set with emeralds and diamonds. A magnificent pair of jewels, composed of pearls, emeralds, and diamonds, completed the costume.

The Princess Calimaki wore a robe of Imperial blue velvet, with flounces of Honiton lace. Her *cuff* consisted of white feathers, and light blue convolvulus, a diamond being set in the heart of each flower. A *Seringé*, and bracelets of diamonds and pearls were worn with this dress.

The young Princess Czartoryski, daughter of Queen Christina, wore a dress of straw colour tulle with three skirts, each edged with a trimming in which sprays of coral were intermingled. The Princess's head-dress consisted of a superb bandeau of topaz, with pendant sprays of coral at the back of the head.

WALKING DRESSES.

Lady's Dress.—Robe of drab-colour silk. The skirt has three flounces edged with rows of black velvet, and bouquets of roses woven in with the silk. The *fan* trimming finishes the basque of the corsage and the end of the sleeves. Mantelet of black velvet, trimmed with two rows of Chantilly lace. Bonnet of pale blue silk with inside trimming of blonde and white flowers. Collar and under sleeves of worked muslin. Boots of drab colour cashmere, with bronzed leather tips.

Little Girl's Dress.—Frock of dark blue silk, and panniers of black velvet, the latter trimmed with fringe and fancy buttons. Petticoat and trousers edged with a border of eyelet-hole work. Bonnet of white silk, edged with blue-feather trimming. Boots of blue cashmere, tipped with glazed leather.

Little Boy's Dress.—Blouse, with a deep circular cap, made of gray poplin, with black stripes running horizontally. The trimming consists of bands of black velvet. Helmet cap of black velvet, ornamented with a green heron plume. White thread socks, glazed leather shoes, and short gaiters of drab-colour cloth.

EVENING DRESSES.

Robe of sky-blue Tulle Illusion.—The skirt has three flounces ornamented with pearls, white silk embroidery, and blue marabouts. The corsage is trimmed in corresponding style. The head-dress consists of pearls, blue marabouts, and lappets of white blonde figured with gold; bracelets of gold and turquoise; white satin slippers.

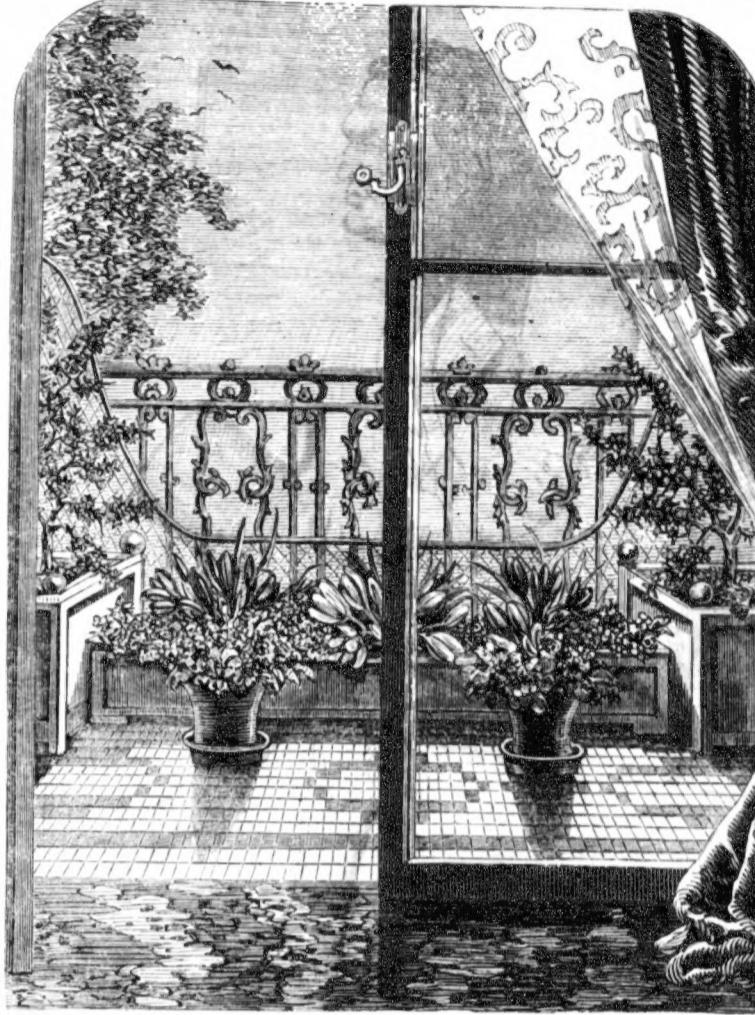
Robe of Pink Tulle with three Skirts, on each skirt of which there is a trimming of quilled pink satin ribbon, disposed in circles. In the centre of each circle there is a bow of pink satin ribbon. The same style of trimming ornaments the corsage and sleeves. The head-dress is composed of a large bouquet of white lilac and pink roses, fixed at the back part of the head. *Seringé* and bracelets of topaz, a Watteau fan, white satin slippers.



FASHIONS FOR APRIL—WALKING AND EVENING DRESSES.

HUNTING SKETCHES.—NO. V.

All, well! my stories is pretty well over, but I'll just tell you one more curous thing as I've met with in my experience. It's a mather o' fifteen year ago. I were huntsman to the Brockedon, as nice a pack as man need ride after, and to hunted them was, too, by Sir Geoffrey Marston, of Longfield Hall. The country all round was good, foxes was plentiful, and all would ha' gone smooth, but for some o' the country gentry round, as was members o' the hunt, and the rudest, most owdacious, overbearin' lot as ever I clapped eyes on. There were old Squire Blathers, as would swear the most horful oaths if the least thing went wrong; there were a sneerin' chap as had been in the harmy, and wornt no good there nor anywhere else; and, above all, there were Muster Hardman, as had been a mannyfacturer, and were now a tearin' swell, with heaps o' money and a fine house and stud. Well! one mornin' we met at Crosby Gorse. They was all there but Sir Geoffrey, and he'd been called away to France to see his daughter as was werry ill; and old Blathers, and Hardman, and the hex-harmy cove was blusterin' away as usual, when we see a strange groom ridin' slowly up and down, and leadin' as perfick a thoroughbred as can be conceived. He looked reglar slap-up, did the groom; not tawdry nonsense about him, dressed in a plain blue coat, with a belt round his waist, white cords and tops, and a cockade in the side of his hat. Well! all the reglar members stares at this turn-out, and some on 'em, the young ones specially, begins praisin' the beauty of the horses, but no one know'd who they belonged to, and old Hardman, when he found this out, grew quite wild. "Who's this?" he says, "a comin' unbeknown amidst a set o' gentlemen?" "Spose you ask the groom?" says old Blathers, who wanted the information, but didn't like the job o' gettin' it. "I will," says Hardman, and up he rides to the groom. "Whose horses is these, groom?" says he. "My master's, sir," says the groom, quite civil and respectful. "What's his name?" says Hardman. "Snivey," says the groom. "Any other name?" says Hardman. "Yes, Hookem," says the groom. "Ah!" says Hardman, "what is your master?" "You'd better ask him yerself, sir," says the groom, "for here he comes;" and sure enough, on lookin' round, Hardman saw a swell lookin' gent, with a moustache and knowin' cut clothes, a canterin' up as easily as possible. As he come nearer, and see Hardman talkin' to his groom, there come a curous savage sort o' expression across his face, and he looked so fierce, that Hardman turned his hoss's head and walked off. The gent rides up, jumps off his hoss, shoves his head under his saddle-flaps and looks at the girths, jumps on to his hunter, and waits till we find. Away then he goes 'cross country like a dart, ridin' close to hounds, takin' every leap like a man, and bein' fust in at the death. When the ruck of the field come up, he took off his cap, made 'em a bow, and was just ridin' off, when Hardman comes up to him, and says in a blusterin' voice, "We want to know who you are, sir." The gent looks him straight in



WINDOW GARDENING—FLORAL DECORATION OF A BALCONY.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

HUNTING SKETCHES, NO. V.—(BY PHIL.)
A LESSON OF IMPERTINENCE.

the face; then turns to me, and givin' me half a sovring says, "When's the next meet, huntsman?" says he, quite coolly. "Friday, sir," says I, "at Combe Wood." "Very well," says he, "I'll not forget it, and I'll not forget *you*, sir," says he, turnin' to Hardman. He then bowed again, and rode off. Well, Friday come, and sure enough at Combe Wood, there was the groom; the gent come afterwards, bows to the hunt, mounts, and starts off with the rest of 'em. But this time, instead of strikin' out his own line o' country, he stuck fast to old Hardman; wherever he rode, there was the swell side by side with him, lookin' round at him, and seemin' to take delight in havin' made him uncomfortable. Old Hardman, who were never a very good seat, began to fidget and fume; he nearly missed two jumps, and at last, at a stiff fence in Rick's meadow, Old Jack, as he was ridin', baulked, and refused; but Hardman, seein' the stranger laughin', got in a rage, and rammed him at it. Well, Old Jack tried, but failed, and fell a regular *cropper* the other side, throwin' Hardman over his head. And while Hardman lay on his back, the stranger flew over him like a flash o' lightnin', came up to the hounds, and was, as last time, fust in at the death. Old Hardman rode up a quarter of an hour afterwards, lookin' fearfully shook and pale about the gills, so the stranger says to him, "Mr. Hardman, I was goin' to horse-whip you today after the hunt, for your impertinence last time," says he, "but you've had punishment enough from your fall, and I forgive you. You wanted to know who I am. I'm Lord Sutton," says he, "Sir Geoffrey Marston's cousin, and I've took Longleat House, close here. There I'll be happy to see any gentlemen of the hunt, and give them as good a glass of wine as any in England."

A CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. 4.
EGYPTIAN TOYS IN THE GALLERY OF THE
BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE truth of the old proverb, that "there is nothing new under the sun," will be recognised on an examination of the interesting group which forms the subject of our present engraving.

Here are dolls of different shapes, some of them for good children, and some, perhaps, for bad; foot-balls, covered with leather, &c., the stiches in parts still firmly adhering; models of fishes and fruit; and round pellets, which the "small boys" of the present day would call "marbles." These toys have been played with by little Egyptians who have been dead and buried three or four thousand years, some of the games they took part in having probab.y been witnessed by the owner of the elaborately curled wig which is to be found in an adjoining case in the British Museum collection. More than this—we are, we dare say, not hazarding a very unlikely supposition, if we go so far as to imagine that some of the hideous mummies which surround us on either side, played with these very toys in their juvenile days, when the massive masonry of the pyramids was spae new, and when, at sunrise, the Memnon statue gave forth its sighing sound.

A very interesting paper might be written upon the history of toys, and the present manner of their manufacture and sale, which, if illustrated, would show some curious phases of art.

Many of the toys that hold their places in the English and other markets, are, so far as fashion is concerned, of considerable antiquity, having been made, without any alteration in pattern, by certain families for several generations. In the mountainous districts of the Savoy and Switzerland, large numbers, both of children and grown persons, are constantly employed in the manufacture of Noah's-arks, milk-maids, &c. Some of the animals carved in wood, and sold here for small prices, show considerable skill in the imitation of the forms of nature, and could only be produced at their present cost, owing to the cheapness of living in those districts and to the systematic division of labour.



EGYPTIAN TOYS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Near the birth-place of Prince Albert is a very large manufactory of military toys, such as drums, trumpets, helmets, &c.; and in parts of Holland—

"—The children take pleasure in making what the children of England take pleasure in breaking."

We have often thought, when glancing at the great toy repositories a the east end of London, of the squaid little wretches who were there roaming about in filth and rags, and of the juvenile toy-makers in their comfortable homes, and could not but come to the conclusion that the lot of the latter was far preferable to that of the miserable creatures by whom we were surrounded.

There is great improvement yet to be made in the artistic style of children's toys, for from the earliest infancy, education, either in good taste or otherwise, commences; and much might be done in the right direction, by substituting for some of the monstrosities which are at present put into the hands of the young, other articles of less faulty and repulsive shape.

WINDOW GARDENING, AND THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS IN ROOMS—NO. 5.

In our previous articles we have treated of the culture of flowering plants within our ordinary sitting apartments, not only as affording the requisite temperature, but because there has been hitherto but little temptation to throw open the windows, and attend to the arrangement of our balcony garden. But now, the daily increasing warmth of the sun, tempts us to throw our windows wide, if but for a few hours during the bright morning sunshine, to let in the spring air already filled with a delightful though scarcely describable perfume from the distant fields; even though, while we enjoy the sparkling freshness of the air, we sit over a blazing fire to enable us to inhale it without a wintry shudder.

Having once opened our window, however, we perceive that it is time to remove the soot-blackened evergreens that have performed their task of simulating summer through the long dreary months of a London winter. They have braved both snow and smoke without flinching, and, like the advance guard of the great army of vegetation, have at last perished at their posts. Let us, therefore, remove them with all respect, while we make way for the advance of the green hosts of spring.

The receptacles of the balcony cleared of their wintry denizens, leave us an open field for new arrangements in accordance with the same form, or we can remodel the entire plan. The accompanying illustration exhibits a distribution of vessels or receptacles for plants, which is, in many respects, very desirable one, and we will therefore describe it in some detail.

In front, next to the iron-work of the balcony, a wire trellis is placed, owing in the centre, so as not to impede the view, and high at the sides, in order to exhibit to advantage the climbing plants it is intended to support, and, at the same time, impart a variety of elevation to the arrangement, which is a great advantage, pictorially speaking—as the flat conformity of balcony decorations is generally their great and principal defect. The proposed arrangement of a trellis, rising in the form designed, has also another advantage: the trailing or climbing plants, such as tropaeolum majus or tropaeolum canarium, if left to themselves, soon acquire a straggling untidiness of aspect, which ill accords with the architectural forms and lines with which they are in immediate contact, while their symmetrical training into such a form as the one suggested, would, on the contrary, form a pleasing variety of line, yet sufficiently defined and regular to blend pleasingly with those of the balcony and general building.

The long trough or vessel in the centre is, upon a similar principle, made to contrast as strongly as possible with the high, square tubs at the sides, in order to avoid the flatness of effect before alluded to. These vessels may either be made of common deal by an ordinary carpenter, or formed with the elegant encaustic tiles now so much in vogue for such purposes; but when intended, as in the present instance, for external decoration, we prefer the simpler effect first named, and would colour them of one unbroken hue, according to the tone of the architecture with which they have to correspond. With a brick building we have generally found a dark green produce the best effect, unless, indeed, the windows and other features be dressed with architraves of cement or stone, in which case stone colour is sometimes best, as the addition of a third tint into the architectural combination might very seriously disturb the repose and continuity of its general aspect. In the case of stuccoed houses, painted stone colour, we have almost invariably found that not only any additions of the kind under discussion should receive a precisely similar tone of colour to that of the general building, but even the iron-work of the balcony itself should partake of the same tint, although violating to a certain extent one of the best defined principles of art, which, however, in the present instance, is not of so much importance as the attainment of a generally agreeable effect by the simplest possible means.

A very pleasing addition to the pleasant and cheerful effect of a balcony may now be obtained in a very inexpensive manner, by covering the stone slab with a layer of mosaic, as shown in the drawing. This not only spares the drudgery and slovenly effect of the "hearthstone," but imparts a certain value and neatness to the whole arrangement, which is highly agreeable to the eye, while an occasional shower of rain is all the cleansing process it ever requires. With regard to the flowers to be placed in the receptacles just described, the following arrangements must be attended to, in order to insure anything like a continuously pleasing effect. In the first place, both the long trough and upright square boxes or tubs, must be considered as only external casings to the vessels which really contain the plants; for the beauty of any plant, however hardy, is but of comparatively short duration in London or the immediate suburbs, and therefore a continued renewal becomes absolutely necessary. To effect this purpose most conveniently, two or three interior boxes, according to the length of the external receptacle, should be made to fit into the trough which forms the central portion of the design, and should be made to rest upon some cross bars rising about three-quarters of an inch from the bottom, both to insure drainage and prevent decay. Good drainage should also be secured in the internal boxes themselves, which may be effected by cross layers of wood charcoal, a substance the presence of which stimulates advantageously the growth of the plants.

The large tubs might be filled by five smaller square vessels of different sizes, and furnished with wire handles to lift them in and out, which may be made so as to fall flat upon the soil when the boxes are fitted to their places. It need scarcely be observed, that the same precautions as to drainage should be taken in this instance as in that of the central compartment.

The flowers which we have supposed to be placed in the central compartment are yellow and purple crocuses, and between them are clumps of either double red and double blue Hepatica, or of the Arabis verna, with its dazzlingly white flowers, the profusion of which has obtained for it the picturesque and poetical name, "Mountain Snow," by which it is well known in most cottage gardens. We have supposed the central compartments of the side tubs to be filled with a fine plant of the common Daphne mezereum, now so brilliantly in flower in every country garden, the flowers of which precede the foliage and clothe the stems profusely, and which emits one of the most delicious odours of the early spring, and the entrance of which to our apartments during the bright hours of the morning, when the windows are thrown open to admit the sunshine, cannot fail to be delightful. The side compartments of the same receptacle we would have filled entirely with Arabis verna, the mass of white flowers of which would form a very chaste and pleasing contrast to the deep pink of the mezereum. The plants described might have been easily removed at once from the open garden into the receptacles required, without previous preparation; but it is of course more desirable that they should have been previously "established" in their temporary abode, so that no removal should be any check to their growth and development. To succeed the crocuses, mixed mignonette and Virginia stock or *Memphitis insignis*, which will last till the verbenas and other summer plants come in, should be already forward, in a set of successive boxes; while small bushes of Persian lilac should be in preparation to supersede the Daphne mezereum, till it is time to plant out the tropaeolums, major convolvulus, coca scandens, and other climbing plants for the trellis.

MUSIC OF THE WEEK.

THE speculations of journalists professing to be "well informed" on the subject of the opera have at last been brought to an end. Mr. Lumley has announced his intention of opening her Majesty's Theatre in May for opera and ballet, while Mr. Gye promises to commence musical proceedings on the 15th of the present month at the Lyceum. Mr. Gye inauguates his season with the "Trovatore" (Mdlle. Didié being substituted for Madame Viardot in the part of Azucena), and intends producing the "Traviata," Verdi's last Italian success, at an early period. Verdi's "Vêpres Siciliennes," which would have been produced this season if the Covent Garden catastrophe had not occurred, will not—in fact, could not—be given at the Lyceum. It belongs, as far as construction and stage effects are concerned, to the same class of operas as the "Prophète" and "Huguenots" neither of which can be represented on Mr. Arnold's limited stage. On the other hand, the lighter works, such as the "Count Ory," and the "Elixir of Love," will be heard to infinitely greater advantage at the Lyceum than at a theatre of such huge dimensions as the late Covent Garden.

Mr. Lumley has not yet published the names of the persons who are to form his company, from which we argue that his engagements are not yet

completed. A rumour, as might have been expected, is abroad, to the effect that Madame Goldschmidt has been engaged; but a, that lady objects to singing in costume, we cannot understand how her talent could be applied to the benefit of Mr. Lumley, who is going to depend upon operatic performances, and not upon concerts. Besides, the evangelical party, among whom Madame Goldschmidt now finds her warmest supporters, would never muster in any great strength at her Majesty's Theatre, and only the most pious habitués of Exeter Hall can tolerate those pianoforte performances of Madame Goldschmidt's husband, without which none of her concerts are now considered complete.

If Madame Goldschmidt belonged to Mr. Gye's company, there would be more possibility of making her talent available, for as the scene of Verdi's "Traviata" is laid in Paris, of the present day, the Swedish soprano, in taking the part of the heroine, would of course have to wear the modern costume of civilised European life, to which she is so much attached. Strictly speaking, she would even have to wear five costumes, all of the present time! and what with the evening dress, the morning dress, the garden dress, the ball dress, and the *peignoir* of the last act, which scarcely deserves the name of a dress at all, we should think there would be enough to satisfy all her scruples on the subject of masquerading. She might, however, object to the *camélias* (for the "Traviata" is founded upon the *Dame aux Camélias* of questionable notoriety), and this suggests to us that in all probability the licenser will object to them also. The original piece was considered unworthy of a license even in Paris until after the *coup d'état*, when everything except honesty became tolerated; and an English version, in which the interests of art had been considerably sacrificed to what the writer considered to be those of morality, was also deemed undeserving of sanction by our censor. Let us hope, however, that no difficulty will now be thrown in the way of its representation. The piece is, at all events, as moral as "La Favorite," and half-a-dozen other operas which are constantly performed; and we are of opinion that its effect on the English public would in any case be harmless enough, from the fact of its being written in Italian. Mr. Gye's company is almost the same as that of last season, its principal members being Grisi, Bosio, Ney, and Didié; Mario, Tamberlik, Graziani, and Tagliafico. We may mention, as one of the attractions in the Lyceum programme, that Tamberlik is only to give a very few representations. This will enable us to hear Mario in the "Trovatore," a part which suits him admirably, and in which he met with the greatest success in Paris. We hope that Madame Ney will follow Tamberlik's example, in order that the charming Bosio may have an opportunity of singing the music of Leonora, which, in the first instance, is entrusted to the powerful Viennese lady.

Mr. Hullah's Orchestral Concerts, at St. Martin's Hall, have met with great and deserved success. The programmes of the two concerts which have already been given are quite in the Philharmonic style. These Orchestral Concerts are in fact the Philharmonic Concerts of the people; that is to say, of the people who live more or less in the neighbourhood of Long Acre. To say that they have a passion for classical music in general would at present be inaccurate, for if they listened with resignation to Macfarren last Saturday, they applauded Mercadante with enthusiasm. We learn from some of our contemporaries that they are to be taught to like the music in question; and it is quite true that a person may learn to like almost any thing, as is sufficiently illustrated by the appropriate case of De Quincey and his opium. Beethoven's Symphony in D (Beethoven being to Macfarren in music what Milton is to Montgomery in literature) was rapturously applauded, and it certainly was admirably executed. Mendelssohn's overture to "Ruy Blas," which is characterised, like all his compositions, by the most exquisite talent rather than by genius, and which appeals to a more limited number than the Beethoven Symphony, nevertheless appeared to be widely appreciated. A ballad by Edward Fitzwilliam was well received; and an undeservedly large amount of approbation was bestowed on Signor Regondi, for his musical and gymnastic performances in connection with the barbarous instrument called *concertina*. The gymnastic performances, especially, struck us as being very fine. Molique had written an admirable *concerto* for this highly unmusical instrument; and, seriously, Signor Regondi played it admirably; but why play the concertina at all?

We have received several pieces of new music. The proclamation of peace, if it have no other good effect, will at all events prevent Mr. H. Russell's "Strike men, strike," from ever becoming popular. It is as vulgar as "Cheer, boys, cheer," and as common-place as "Houze, brothers, rouse," to both of which it bears a painful resemblance as regards time, rhythm, and form (even to the change of key in the second eight bars), to say nothing of certain passages, which are so similar, that "Strike, boys, cheer," and "Cheer, men, strike!" &c., appear to be all imperfect recollections of some one great original.

A song about peace,* by W. T. Wrighton (words by L. M. Thornton), and another about the *Enfant de France*,† by Hobbs (words by Carpenter), are both good, both published by Cocks, and both remarkable for the effective use which is made of a national air—each verse of Mr. Wrighton's song being preluded by "God save the Queen," while the refrain of Mr. Hobbs's couplet is "Partant pour la Syrie."

BERANGER ON THE SECOND EMPIRE.

[THE following is a tolerably close translation of some verses, newly written by the great French Lyrist, and said to enjoy a large manuscript circulation in Paris.]

TO THE STUDENTS.

Poor lads! and think ye now, as e'en of old,
To shout for Liberty in accents brave—
And 'neath the triple-colour'd banner's fold
Honour the hand that lifts her from the grave?
My paltry rhymes, whose memory you nurse,
Forget and spurn! I cast them all away!
My Fame, could I believe it, I would curse—
Forgive the poor old ballad-monger's lay!

Say, in what speck, these times they would revive
Are like the dreams of which I lov'd to sing?
I who ne'er spared a quarry while alive,
Flatterer, flunkey, Kaiser, Pope, or King!
I sang a mighty Captain's glories rare,
When he was caged and punish'd, far away,
St. Helena had long wip'd out Brumaire—
Forgive the poor old ballad-monger's lay!

Is Nizard, think ye, Eloquence to me?
Can bland Leverrier, Arago efface P
Am I the friend of night and secrecy?
Will Belmont supply dear Hugo's place?
The kindly God who guards and cheers my home,
Is he the God of spies and swords for pay?
The God our bayonets protect in Rome?—
Forgive the poor old ballad-monger's lay!

Yes! I have sung the glorious epic strain
Of blue coats stain'd by Victory's joyous tears:
Our own Republic's sons who held the plain,
Against the banded kings, for twenty years;
But this prim, well-brush'd wight, with list'ning ear,
Who'd shoot us all for two more sous a-day,
Is he my conscript, chirping o'er his beer?—
Forgive the poor old ballad-monger's lay!

To Poland and to Italy the brave
France owes a debt of gore and priceless love:
The cannon sounds—To arms! But, pshaw! I rave;
Ground so near home would somewhat slippery prove.
Freedom must go elsewhere! Upon the Turk
We'll force her, though we wish her far away.
Peoples, behold your sainted cause at work!—
Forgive the poor old ballad-monger's lay!

April 8, 1856.

ROBERT B. BROOK.

* "Peace, Peace, Peace."

† "The heir, the child of France."

JOTTINGS FROM MY JOURNAL.

THURSDAY APRIL 3.

In the morning to St. Clement's Lane, to visit my brother Bob, the shipbroker, who has made much more out of business in the far east than poor I out of literature, at the west end. Bob showed me a curious specimen of British sharpness. The announcement of peace was made by the Tower guns, at ten o'clock last Sunday night, and next morning the following card was distributed: "Regular line of Petersburg traders. For Constantine direct, the British brig *Aire*, *E 1, 185 tons register, Captain Walmsley, now loading in the St. Katherine's Dock; for freight apply to," &c., &c. The Custom House, however, had forbidden the exit of the *Aire*. Bob in a state of great indignation about the talked-of war with America, which will half ruin him. Talked to him about British honour, and so forth, but in vain. Bob, I fear, has not a "statesmanlike mind." However, he has a generous heart, and gave me a cheque for my Robert, his godson, who wants to go to sea, but will do much better in his uncle's office. Mem.—The American affair is really looking ugly. Powder is being shipped in large quantities to Canada by the Government; and I hear that if there is a rupture Disraeli will support, and not oppose, Lord Palmerston. A proof of this is, that we hear nothing of Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton's promised motion in the House of Commons about the Central American question. Perhaps his brother, Sir Henry, the negotiator of the Bulwer-Clayton treaty (he is a dark, nervous, little man, who is always in the lobby, asking "is my brother in the House?") has talked him over. Gladstone, Cobden and Co., however, are threatening to oppose the Ministry in the American business, and probably Disraeli, Bulwer and Co. do not care to sail in the same boat with them.

To the club, for a basin of soup. A rumour that the Emperor of Russia and his brother, the Grand Duke Constantine, are to pay a friendly visit to France and England next month. *Timoëo Danœos*, &c., as the late Colonel Sibthorp would have said. I suppose next autumn all the world will be rushing to the Russian capital. The Rhine and German spas will be deserted; and next winter Paternoster Row will flood as with such books as "A Trip to St. Petersburg," "From Chelsea to Constantine," "From Manchester to Moscow," "The Czar and the Cattan," &c., &c., &c.

In the evening to the House of Commons. A long and dull debate on the transportation question, in which was overlooked the very solution of the problem, "What shall we do with our criminals?"—namely, to keep them when they have been convicted of serious crime, more than once, to reproductive labour at home for the term of their natural lives. At a late hour the Factories Bill was read a second time *pro forma*. Mr. Cobbett (son of the celebrated William) suspending his opposition, and there is a chance that the great fencing of mill-gearing controversy, in which Charles Dickens has taken so conspicuous a part, will be settled by a compromise. What will Miss Martineau say, who has been publishing a pamphlet, declaring that if the Legislature meddle with the factory system will be destroyed.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4.

A long leading article in the "Times," this morning, upon the criminal question, but not a word about the Factories Bill. What a nice thing in these days to be a thief or a manslayer—young or old! You will have the big-wigs of the nation solemnly discussing whether chops or steaks agree best with you, the air of the Bermudas or that of Van Dieman's Land. If you are a juvenile criminal, a magnificent palace will be built for your reformation. Be an industrious factory child, exposed to have your tender limbs torn off in the whirl of machinery, and the big-wigs and leading journals will raise the cry of "humanity-mongering," "maudlin philanthropy," and so forth, if it is proposed that precautions should be taken to save you loss of life or limb. O ye blind leaders of the blind!

To the House of Commons in the evening, expecting to hear a discussion on the second reading of the Bill for the appointment of a Vice-President of Education; instead, Sir James Graham and Charley Napier were at it again, about the Acre business, and in the opinion of a thin House Charley had decidedly the best of it. Little Lord Goderich, sharp and spectacled, rose to interrogate the Premier on the American business, but, before the Premier could reply, Gladstone was up like a rocket to put a question on the same matter. Gladstone is determined to head the peace-party, and will allow no poaching upon his manor. The Manchester men, instead of being indignant at this interloping of Gladstone, are rather proud of their new leader, the patron of the Honourable (?) Francis Lawley and the late John Sadler. Well, there is no disputing about taste! Mem.—Reviving rumours at the House, that Lord Granville is to go as ambassador to Paris, and Lord John to become President of the Council. This would conciliate the aristocratic Whigs, who look askance at Lord Palmerston.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5.

Barlow called in the forenoon, full, as usual, of literary gossip, for which he has all the keenest zest that he is not a literary man. Talked of the controversy between Hayward and that spiteful old Croker, about the Montalembert translation. B. says that Hayward piques himself on the minute fidelity of his own translations, and that when he was translating "Faust," he bored all the German scholars of his acquaintance with queries about the meaning of this or that word or phrase. Hayward, it seems, had a quarrel with Roebuck a few years ago, but found his match in the peppery Member for Sheffield. According to B., Hayward is suspected to be the author of "The Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli: A Biography," attacked in the last number of the "Liber," and thence the Coalition tried, unsuccessfully, to reward him with the secretaryship of the Poor Law Commission.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6.

At home, unwell. Read the Morning Service and the Lessons for the day. Then dipped into "The History of a Man: Edited by the Rev. George Gilfilian;" decidedly a "Sunday book," not merely edited, but evidently written, by George. Full of beautiful writing, and will be eagerly read by the religious public. George has done a good service to Scotland by bridging over the yawning abyss that in his country severs the religious world on its Delectable Mountains from the Elysian fields of poetry and general literature. Mem.—When Maria returned from church, she complained, that while the prayer for victory over our enemies had been omitted, the thanksgiving for peace had not been used. Really my little wife is a perfect walking liturgy, though I wish she would remember a certain vow in it which she took to "obey," as well as "to love and cherish," a certain Mr. Grave!

In the evening, our incumbent kindly came to take tea and to talk with me. Told me that there is another candidate for the Golden Lectureship in the field, a Rev. Thomas Jackson, a great protégé of the Bishop of London's. Thus Mr. Jackson seems to be a lucky person. He was formerly a principal of the Training School at Battersea, a conspicuous post. Then he was made Bishop of somewhere or other, in New Zealand; but, on repairing to the seat of his see, was not consecrated, and returned home a plain Fuseyite. Any other man would have been under a cloud—not so Mr. Jackson. He was appointed Rector of Stoke Newington; and thanks to the patronage of the Bishop of London, stands a good chance of being appointed Golden Lecturer. Verily, some people are born with silver spoons in their mouths.

MONDAY, APRIL 7.

This afternoon strolled to the Westminster Palace. My old patron, Lord —, with much courtesy, introduced me into the House of Lords, where I found the Earl of Eglington, of all persons in the world, proposing a Bank Charter Act Committee. The hero of the Eglington tournament gravely discoursing about "metallic basis," "restricted circulation," and all the other dreary points of the dreary currency question! The pert, but clever, Duke of Argyll opposed on the part of the Government; the motion was withdrawn. Mem.—The new Lord-in-Waiting is to be the young Earl of Caithness, an appointment which may be regarded under two different aspects. The Earl is poor, and needs it, some people will say. But it may be added, he is scientific, and deserves it—at least in days like these, when Dr. Lyon Playfair is gentleman-usher to Prince Albert. As Lord Bermedale, the Earl of Caithness was a distinguished mechanician, built a large organ with his own hands, and has lectured on the steam-engine to mechanics' institutions. *Sic utr ad astra.* "Very properly," my brother Bob, the shipbroker, would reply, if he understood Latin.

FRANK GRAVE.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

CASE OF LOSING A LEGACY.—Charles King was placed at the bar of the Westminster Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with stealing £65 in Bank of England notes, under circumstances of a most singular nature.

It appeared that Mr. Courtney, a gentleman residing at Holloway, on Monday received a legacy, amounting to £65, in Bank of England notes of £5, £10, and £5. In anticipation of this, he had attended a sale two or three days previously in Ebury Street, Pimlico, and purchased several articles of furniture, on which he merely paid a deposit. Upon the receipt of the legacy, he went into a tavern at Highbury and took some refreshment, in the course of which it seems questionable whether the circumstance of his having a large amount of money about him did not transpire. After a short stay he went out, and calling King's cab, ordered him to drive to Pimlico, his object being to proceed to the sale rooms, and pay for the furniture. When he got to the end of his journey, he found that his pockets had been picked of the whole of the money, and having waited till he saw a policeman, he gave the cabman into custody for the felony.

The Magistrate asked when he last saw the notes safe?

Prosecutor replied that after he got into the cab he examined his pockets, and found them all right.

The Magistrate asked how he accounted for the loss?

Prosecutor replied that he had had little or no rest on Sunday night, and, feeling much fatigued and very sleepy, he got into the cab for greater security, and there fell asleep, during which he had been robbed. He was quite sober at the time he entered the cab.

The Magistrate remanded the prisoner until inquiries were made, and directed the police to make him acquainted with the result as soon as possible, and also to stop payment of the notes.

LADY GLAMIS ROBBED AT A RAILWAY STATION.

—George Williams, a well-dressed man, who, when charged at the Station-house, described himself as a cigar manufacturer, residing at No. 7, George Street, Westminster, was, on Saturday last, brought up at Marlborough Police-court, on remand, charged with having on the previous Saturday morning, at the Paddington terminus of the Great Western Railway, stolen from the pocket of Lady Glamis, No. 40, Curzon Street, Mayfair, a purse containing a £5 note and other moneys.

The Superintendent of the Railway Police, attended on behalf of the Company, to prosecute.

The evidence taken on the former occasion went to show that in the morning in question her Ladyship was on the platform, and was about to enter a first-class carriage, when the prisoner was seen to press close against her, and draw from her pocket a purse. He was in the act of making his egress but was stopped by one of the Company's porters, by whom her Ladyship's purse was picked up, and which was lying on the platform. There were in it a £5 note, four sovereigns, two half ditto, seven shillings, ten fourpenny pieces, and some threepenny pieces. The purse and its contents were identified by Lady Glamis.

The Superintendent said that Lady Glamis was at Cheltenham, and he produced a written certificate from Dr. Arnott, of that town, which was to the effect that her Ladyship was in too ill a state of health to come to London at present.

The Attorney for the prisoner suggested that it was a case which the Magistrate might deal summarily with, inasmuch as it had not been shown that the prisoner had been in trouble before.

The Superintendent observed, on the part of the Company, that he must press for a remand, and he had no doubt that on a future day he should be able to bring forward evidence to show that the prisoner was known.

Williams was accordingly remanded for a week.

THE CONGREGATION AT ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE, DISTURBED AT THEIR DEVOTIONS.—William Henry Bolton was on Monday brought to the Marlborough Street Police-court, charged with disturbing the congregation of St. George, Hanover Square, on Sunday.

The Beadle said he heard a disturbance in the church about twelve o'clock, during divine service, and on proceeding to ascertain the cause, he found the church beadle attempting to remove the defendant, who resisted and held on by the pew seat. He made so much resistance that it took five or six persons to remove him.

It appeared that Bolton, for some time past, had been accustomed to annoy the congregation at their devotions, by making the responses in a loud and peculiar voice, groaning in some parts of the service, and audibly ejaculating his opinions at other parts. He had been remonstrated with in vain, and as his conduct became a general annoyance, it was determined to eject him.

It having, on behalf of the parish authorities, been intimated that the parish had no wish to press the charge; and the Magistrate having received such information as to induce him to believe that the defendant's conduct proceeded from no intentional irreverence, consented to discharge the defendant upon his giving an assurance to one of the clergy of the parish that such conduct should not be repeated.

A YOUNG THIEF GETTING OVER THE "OLD BLOKE" AT LAST.—William Bowens, 16 years of age, was charged, at Greenwich, with being found unlawfully concealed on the premises of Mr. Harman, a London carrier, residing at East Wickham.

Mr. Harman said he had for a long time suspected the prisoner, who is a neighbour's son, of entering his premises and committing petty thefts. Having lost many things lately, he was induced on Friday night to keep watch; and at about a quarter past eleven, he heard some one put a key into the lock of the door, and enter. All was quiet for a few minutes, when he heard some one say in a sort of whisper, "I've got over the old bloke at last." He at once proceeded to where he heard the voice, collared the prisoner, and gave him in charge.

Bowens, who had nothing to say to the charge, but who looked revengefully at the "old bloke," who had thus in his turn "got over" him, was then sentenced to imprisonment for three calendar months in Maidstone Gaol.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The transactions in nearly all public securities, this week have been comparatively limited, and prices have shown a tendency to give way. The 3 per cent. consols, for money, have been 92½ to 93½, and 92½ to 93 for the present account. The quotations for May have ranged from 93½ to 93¾. We have had transfers in the 3 per cents., reduced at 91½ to 93½; and in the new 3 per cents., 93½ to 93¾. Consols scrip and exchequer bills have realised 34 pence. Exchequer bills, 2s. 6d.; exchequer bonds, 93½; India bonds, 10s. discount; and the thirty years' annuities, 1885, 16s.

The demand for money has continued active, and the Bank of England has made very large advances to the commercial body. It is satisfactory to find, however, that there is every prospect of a lower range in the value of discounts, from the important fact that the stocks of bullion in the Banks of England and France are steadily increasing, and that future exports from this country are likely to be on a much more limited scale than during the last two years.

All foreign bonds have been steady in price, but the business done in them has been very moderate. Mexican 3 per cents. have realised 25; Buenos Ayres, 60; Equador, 5½; ditto new consolidated, 16½; Grenada deferred, 7½; Greek bonds, 4½; Russian 5 per cents., 106; Turkish 4½ per cents., 95; Spanish deferred, 25; ditto 4 per cents., 5½; Turkish 6 per cents., 101½ to 102; ditto 4 per cents., 102; Venezuela, 13½; Dutch 2½ per cents., 13½; Dutch 4 per cents., 94½.

We have had a better feeling in the mining share market. Australian, 2; British iron, 4½; Cobre copper, 67; Linares, 5; Rhymney iron, 19½; Tinctor, 4; United Mexican, 4½.

Joint-stock bank shares have been very steady. Bank of London, 64; City, 65; Commercial of London, 70½; London and County, 33½; Oriental, 43½; Union of Australia, 71; Union of London, 27½.

Several transactions have been reported in Canada Company's Shares at 140; Crystal Palace, 24; Mexican and South American, 5½; Peel River Land and Mineral, 3; Van Dieman's Land, 6½.

Railway shares have been very firm, as follows:—Aberdeen, 28; Caledonian, 61½; East Anglian, 18½; Eastern Counties, 10½; Great Northern, 94½; Great Western, 65½; London and Brighton, 103; London and North-Western, 102; London and South-Western, 95½; Midland, 75; Norfolk, 52½; North Staffordshire, 11½; Scottish Central, 103½; South Devon, 13½; South Eastern, 72½; South Wales, 71.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Very moderate supplies of English wheat, in fair condition, have been on sale this week. For all kinds, we have had a steady demand, and previous rates have been fully supported. Foreign wheat—the imports of which continue moderate—has changed hands to a moderate extent, on former terms. There has been an active sale for both English and foreign barley, at an improvement in value of 1s. per quarter. Malt has mostly realised full quotations; but the demand for that article has been far from active. The oat trade has been slow, but we have no change to notice in the currencies obtained last week. Beans, peas, and flour have sold steadily, at full late rates.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 57s. to 75s.; do., Red, 54s. to 70s.; Malting Barley, 37s. to 44s.; Distilling do., 32s. to 36s.; Grinding do., 32s. to 36s.; Malt, 56s. to 74s.; Rye, 44s. to 47s.; Feed Oats, 21s. to 27s.; Potato do., 21s. to 30s.; Tick Beans, 31s. to 34s.; Pigeon, 37s. to 44s.; White Peas, 40s. to 41s.; Maple, 32s. to 35s.; Gray, 32s. to 36s. per quarter. Town made Flour, 63s. to 65s.; Town Households, 54s. to 60s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 46s. to 50s. per 250 lbs.

CATTLE.—Full average supplies of beasts have been offered this week, and all kinds have moved off heavily, at a decline in the quotations of 4d. per lb. Sheep have come freely to hand, and the trade has ruled heavy, at 4d. per lb. less money. Lambs have been tolerably firm at full prices. Calves have fallen in value 6d. per lb.; and pigs have had a downward tendency. Beef, from 2s. 10d. to 4s. 4d.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 5s. 1d.; lamb, 6s. to 7s.; veal, 4s. to 5s. 6d.; pork, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 10d. per lb. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—These markets have been heavy, at drooping prices. Beef, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.; mutton, 3s. to 4s. 4d.; lamb, 5s. 4d. to 6s. 4d.; veal, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d. per lb. by the carcass.

FEATHERS.—We have no change to notice in the value of any kind, and the demand generally is inactive. Congou, 82d. to 98d.; Ning Yong and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Souochong, 9d. to 1s. 3d.; Flower Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Cipe, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; Scented Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankey, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 2d. to 3s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb.

SUGAR.—Rather more money has been realised for good and fine raw sugar, this week, and the value of other kinds has been well supported. Floating cargoes have moved off freely, chiefly on continental account. The refined market is firm, at 51s. 6d. to 55s. per cwt. Crushed is steady, and rather dearer.

MOLASSES.—Fine West India are steady, at 18s. 6d. to 19s. per cwt. The supply on offer is very moderate.

COFFEE.—This market is tolerably firm as to price; but the business doing in it is very moderate. Good old native Ceylon is quoted at 52s., to 55s. per cwt.

COCOA.—The supply on offer is rather extensive, and the demand for all kinds is in a sluggish state. Red Trinidad, 44s. to 47s.; gray, 40s. to 44s.; Granada, 40s. to 46s.; St. Vincent, 35s. to 38s.; Bahia and Para, 37s. to 39s. per cwt.

FRUIT.—The demand for currants is steady, at full quotations.—Old black Smyrnae are worth 25s. to 30s.; Sultanah, 60s. to 62s.; new Elmes, 49s.; Muscatels, 60s.; and Turkey figs, 40s. to 65s. per cwt.

RICE.—Much inactivity continues to prevail in the demand for all kinds of rice, yet late rates are mostly supported.

SALT-PETER.—Holders are very firm, but the dealings are but moderate. Fine qualities are worth 37s. per cwt.

PROVISIONS.—There is less activity in the sale for butter, and inferior qualities are lower to purchase. Bacon is less active, on former terms. In hams, lard, &c., very little is doing.

METALS.—There is only a slow inquiry for iron, yet very little change has taken place in the quotations. Rails at the works, £8 to £8 5s.; common bars, £8 2s. 6d. to £8 5s.; Sheets, single, in London, £11 to £11 5s.; and nail rods, £9 10s. to £9 15s. per ton. Tin is higher. Banca, 132s. to 139s. Ed.; Straits, 130s. to 131s.; British, 129s. to 130s.; and refined, 134s. to 135s. Tin plates move off freely. J. C. Coke, 30s. 6d. to 31s.; I. X. do., 36s. 6d. to 37s.; I. C. Charcoal, 36s. to 36s. 6d.; and I. X. 42s. to 43s. per box. Lead moves off steadily. British pig, £26 10s. to £27; Spanish, £25 to £25 10s. per ton. Copper is quite as dear as last week. Spelter, £23 7s. 6d. per ton on the spot.

SPIRITS.—We have a fair demand for rum, at full prices. Proof Leewards, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 3d.; East India, 2s. to 2s. 1d. per gallon. Brandy is steady, at full late rates. Gin, 17 under proof, 9s. 10d.; 22 do., 9s. 4d.; and raw spirit, 10s. 7d. per gallon. Geneva, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 4d.

HEMP AND FLAX.—We have to notice a steady demand for hemp, at full quotations. Flax is held firmly, at late rates.

COTTON.—This market is firm, at full late rates. Surat has sold at 4d. to 5d.; Bengal, 3d. to 4d.; Madras, 3d. to 5d. per lb.

WOOL.—The trade generally is rather active, and prices are fully supported. The imports of Colonial wool are on the increase.

HOPS.—Good and fine hops are steady, at full quotations; but other kinds are very dull. Mid and East Kent pockets, £3 to £6 10s.; Weald of Kent, £3 to £5; Sussex, £2 16s. to £4 10s. per cwt.

POTATOES.—The supplies are less extensive, and the demand is steady, at from 35s. to 90s. per ton.

OILS.—Linseed oil moves off slowly, at 33s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. All other oils are dull. Turpentine is inactive. Spirits, 32s. to 34s. 6d.; rough, 9s. 6d. to 10s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—P.Y.C., on the spot, is steady, at 47s. per cwt. Forward delivery, very little is doing. Town tallow, 45s. 6d. nett cash; rough fat, 2s. 6d. per lb. The stock of tallow is now 24,019 casks, against 34,699 casks in 1855, 34,194 in 1854, 29,609 in 1853, and 42,698 in 1852.

COALS.—Best Wallsend, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; other sorts, 11s. 6d. to 17s. per ton.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN EDWARDS, Southampton, watchmaker—ALFRED LANGFORD, Lowes, Sussex, brewer—CHARLES GAIGER, Winchester, draper—THOMAS KENNARD, Islington, and New North Road, Middlesex, baker—WILLIAM WALTON, Richmond, Surrey, grocer—DAVID ARTLETT, Cheltenham, Middle-ex, baker—MALLARD INGRAM, Rugeley, Stafford, ironmonger—BENJAMIN GEORGE HOLTON, Coventry, licensed victualler—JOSEPH SPOONER TAYLOR and JOSEPH MARSDEN, Dibby, iron founders—WILLIAM CRUX, Glastonbury, Somerset, auctioneer—JOHN GRIFFITHS GOULSTONE, Knighton, Radnor, druggist—GEORGE AUGUSTUS VOIGT, Cheltenham, piano-forte dealer—JOSEPH SAVILLE, Salford, cotton cloth manufacturer—WILLIAM CRATHORNE, Bishop Wearmouth, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—OLIVER KIRKMAN and FREDERICK KIRKMAN, Glasgow, India rubber warehousemen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM GASCOINE, Hitchin, butcher—JOHN THOMAS METCALFE and GEORGE METCALFE, Bow Lane, City, canvas merchants—WILLIAM PILLEY, Aldermanbury Postern, City, tailor—JOHN BATTZ, Tower Hill, licensed victualler—GEORGE BYFORD, Liverpool, slate dealer—THOMAS GORE, Manchester, machine maker—THOMAS WALKER BLOD, Boongate, Peterborough, corn factor.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JAMES BANNATINE, Glasgow, shirt manufacturer—WILLIAM THOMSON, Glasgow, assurance agent—W.H. BOYD, Glasgow, chemist.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

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